A TREATISE

ON

COBBETT'S CORN,

Containing Instructions for Propagating and Cultivating the Plant, and for Harvesting and Preserving the Crop;

AND ALSO

An Account of the several Uses to which the Produce is applied, with Minute Directions relative to each Mode of Application.

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By WILLIAM COBBETT.

"Men of the greatest learning, have spent their time in contriving instruments "to measure the immense distance of the stars, and in finding out the dimensions "and even the weight of the planets. They think it more eligible to study the "art of ploughing the sea with ships, than of tilling the land with ploughs. "They bestow the utmost of their skill, learnedly to pervert the natural use of "all the elements, for the destruction of their own species by the bloody art of "war; and some waste their whole lives in studying how to arm death with "new engines of horror, and inventing an infinite variety of slaughter, but think "it *beneath* men of learning (who only are capable of doing it), to employ their "learned labours in the invention of new, or even in improving the old, means "for the increasing of bread."—*Tull's Husbandry.*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

N. B. The figures refer not to pages but to paragraphs; and the figure denotes the number of the paragraph with which the chapters respectively begin.

CHAPTER I.

General Introductory Observations . . 1

CHAPTER II.

Description and History of Cobbett's Corn, and an account of the several sorts of it . . 11

CHAPTER III.

On the Soil and the preparation of it, proper for the Corn, and on the Season for Planting it in England 34

CHAPTER IV.

On the Season for Planting Corn . . . 46

CHAPTER V.

On the Mode of Planting Corn . . . 54

CHAPTER VI.

On the Summer Cultivation of Corn . . 82

CHAPTER VII.

On the Topping of the Corn, and on the Mode of Stacking the Tops 117

CHAPTER VIII.

On the Harvesting of the Ears; on the Husking of them; on the Mode of Keeping them; on the Separating of the Grain from the Cobb; and on the Uses of the Husks and of the Cobbs . 127

CHAPTER IX.

On the various Uses to which the Grain is applicable, containing minute Instructions with regard to the Modes of Application . . 146

CHAPTER X.

On the Amount and Value of the Corn-crop, compared with that of other Crops . . 163

CHAPTER XI.

Conclusion; addressed to the Readers of the Register 171

CHAPTER I.

General Introductory Observations.

1. THE motive for writing and publishing a work like this, if it had wanted suggestion from any mind but my own, would have been found in the *motto*, which I have chosen upon this occasion; and which is taken from him, whose work has done more to promote good agriculture, than all the other works, of all countries, put together. Certainly it is worthy of observation, and, indeed, of censure, that so very few men of learning (I mean of that sort of learning which is exhibited in, or to be acquired from, books) have employed any portion of their time and talent in treating of the means of making an addition to the quantity of human food. Nay, some of them have actually prided themselves upon their ignorance of everything relating to agriculture, that first and greatest employment of man. The late Lord ERSKINE annually attended the sheep-shearing festivals of Mr. COKE, as long as that gentleman thought proper to treat the nobility and gentry to such festivals, and the "learned LORD," annually, upon those occasions, made it his boast, that he

was so perfectly ignorant with regard to matters connected with the cultivation of the land, that he once, upon seeing a field of lavender, thought it was a field of wheat. To descend a step lower, Sir WALTER SCOTT, well worthy of the first baronetcy bestowed by the present KING; this Baronet, of book-making and book-selling notoriety, as the affairs of Constable and Co. can bear witness; this worthy Baronet, in a letter to Lord SOMERVILLE, published by his Lordship in a book about oxen and sheep, took occasion, very unnecessarily, and even ostentatiously, to observe, that, as to the business of agriculture, he hardly knew more than the pen with which he was writing. To descend lower still ("where will you stop, then?" the reader will exclaim), Mr. ADOLPHUS of the George-the-Third-history-fame, or rather obscurity, in pleading against me for one FARLAR, before the Secondary of London, took occasion, while he displayed his white handkerchief and his genteely-pale hand, to tell the Jury, that, as to brewing, or the sort of materials made use of in that process; or, as to any rural affair, of whatever description, he himself had no knowledge; and that, in fact, if taken into the fields or the gardens, he knew not any one plant from any other; which declaration, if made before people in the country, before a set of farmers' men and maids, would convince them

that the orator was fit for little besides being knocked on the head.

2. When learned gentlemen, and learned lords, and girl-bewitching novel-writers, make this kind of ignorance their boast, is it any wonder that it should become the fashion, with persons in the middle rank of life, to make it their boast, that they do not know what you mean, when you talk of such things as spades and ploughs, and rakes and harrows? It is curious, too, that these same persons are ashamed to be thought ignorant of the histories of all the nations on earth; and, as to "*politics*," they all understand *politics;* they would be ashamed not to be thought clearly to understand that which *the King and the Parliament ought to do.* The constitution! Oh! they all understand that, though made up of a series of maxims, decisions, and positive acts, grown together in the course of twelve hundred years. And, *religion*, now! what man of them would not be ashamed, not to be thought competent to decide, not only between CALVIN and the POPE; but to determine, to a hair's breadth, the right and the wrong of all the intervening classes, amounting to about fifty in number, each differing in its creed from all the other forty-nine?

3. Mr. TULL, in the elegant passage which I have taken for my motto, observes on the waste of learning, in measuring and weighing the stars;

which brings to my recollection, that, when I was in the army, in NEW BRUNSWICK, I was acquainted with a serjeant, who was a young man, and who, as well as myself, was a great reader; but he was smitten with astronomy, and wanted me to pay attention to some of the discoveries he had made. "I tell you what," said I, "I do not "care what they are doing up there; their orders, "whether general, garrison, or regimental, can "never affect me: study you, if you please, what "they are about, I will confine my studies to "things which pass upon the earth." In our schools, nay, in our universities, every thing is taught, but that which is the most useful and honourable of all; namely, the means of raising food, drink, and clothing, and materials for buildings; without which, and with the want of any one of which, mankind must cease to exist; and without the whole of which in tolerable perfection and abundance, no nation can be either great or happy. We have lectures upon every thing but agriculture: DOCTOR BIRKBECK treats us to a theory of the winds; another takes infinite pains to explain how the air is pumped out of the body of a rat; there are a great number of lecturers to teach us how the veins and the intestines are formed, and how they ought to be emptied; but not a soul to tell us the best way of filling them. Commissioners of Scotch herrings

we have had, and a Count of the White-Eagle (RUMFORD), together with a whole troop of soup-kettle philosophers, to teach us how to stew old bones into jelly, and by how little the human body can be sustained; but not a single man to give us a lecture on the means of providing that plenty, that abundance of good living, without which man had better be dead than alive, and for which our country was, for so many ages, so famous.

4. The great study, of late years, appears to have been, to discover the means of reducing the most numerous and most useful class of the people to exist upon the smallest possible quantity of food; and, failing here, PARSON MALTHUS has suggested the means, improved upon by the infamous PETER THIMBLE, and the equally infamous CARLILE, of checking the course of nature in the producing of children. The PARSON and his worthy coadjutors never seem to have thought, for a single moment, of a more just distribution of the food already raised, and still less of any means of adding to the quantity. The schemes of these worthies not being attended with success, schemes for *getting rid of the people*, by sending them out of the country, have, at last, been resorted to, and have actually been brought before Parliament, by Mr. WILMOT HORTON, the patron of the project.

5. My efforts have, all my life long, since I became a man, been directly the reverse of those of these projectors. I have used various endeavours to cause an addition to be made to the food, the drink, the raiment, of the industrious classes. I know, and I have always known, that complete success cannot attend these endeavours, so long as the present, or any thing like the present, burthen of taxes remains; but, a change in this respect must come; and, in the meanwhile, it is my duty to persevere in my efforts to add to the permanent resources, the permanent strength, and the permanent happiness of my country. In this way to introduce, and that too, with such success, the general planting of the Locust, and other American trees, was doing a great deal: timber will be grown here, instead of being imported from abroad: English ships will be better as well as lighter than they were before: our buildings and our fencing will be more lasting: our implements of husbandry will become lighter and more durable: and, from the same cause will arise a greater quantity of employment than would have existed, had I never made a publication upon this subject.

6. The introduction of the Locust Tree was a matter of such vast importance, affecting all classes in society, that I never dreamed of any thing to exceed it in point of value to the country; but, it

certainly will be exceeded by the introduction of the plant of which I am about to treat. It is desirable that the crops of a country, whether for human or for cattle food, should be of as many sorts as can be usefully employed, and, if of *grain*, coming to maturity at different parts of all the finer seasons of the year. No one can so well appreciate the advantage of this variety of crops, as he who has been in countries where they are cultivated.

7. All our grain, upon an average of years, comes to perfection in the course of one single month; so that, if that month happen to be untoward, the *whole* of our crops receive great injury; and sometimes the injury is so great, as it has happened to be this very year, as to produce an apprehension, if not real danger, of something approaching towards famine. If the evil do not extend thus far, it produces, at the least, very great distress; and, as it may happen in this very year also, and so it must always be, in a greater or less degree, this evil produces great embarrassment to the government; and cases may frequently arise, when the government, embarrassed from this cause, may be induced, and even compelled, to endure insults and injuries from foreign nations, to which, otherwise, it would not have submitted.

8. This simultaneous ripening of our crops of grain, causes a very partial and injurious distri-

bution of the labours of the year. The harvest month, as it is proverbially called, is a month of bustle and of hurry indescribable: all is at stake; not a moment is to be lost; any demand for wages must be submitted to: to this succeeds a dead calm, in which there is nothing to do; wages acquired so suddenly are but too frequently as suddenly dissipated; and, after a long and indolent autumn, winter comes, and meets the labourer with not a farthing of his harvest earnings in his pocket. Now, the Indian corn furnishes employment until the end, and after the end of October, and well rewards the man who gives the employment. This is one of the most important considerations belonging to the subject. I shall, by and bye, have to show, when I come to the eighth chapter, where I shall speak of the various uses to which the grain and other parts of the produce are applicable: I shall then show, what a blessing this plant will be to the English labourer, and how it will and must drive the accursed soul-degrading potatoe out of that land, into which it never ought to have come: but, viewing the cultivation of this plant, merely as the means of diminishing the bustle of the one month, by spreading it over three; viewing it in this light only, the introduction of this plant must, by every sensible man, be deemed of the greatest importance.

9. Much of the ease and happiness of the people of the United States of America is ascribable to the absence of grinding taxation; but that absence alone, without the cultivation of Indian Corn, would not, in the space of only about a hundred and fifty years, have created a powerful nation, consisting of twelve millions of souls; a population surpassing that of England and Wales. This plant is the great blessing of the country. In my "*Year's residence in America,*" I describe it as the greatest blessing that God ever gave to man. It ripens at a time of the year, when the harvest of the other grain is completely gone by; and it is a thing of such vast importance, that the question from farmer to farmer, living at some distance from each other, is not, "how is your wheat, your barley, your rye, or your oats?" but, "how is your CORN this year?" For, by that, he judges of the state of his neighbour's prosperity or adversity as to his crops.

10. I have very frequently observed, that I believed England to be the richest agricultural country in the world, bating the want of Indian Corn; and that, if it had that, it would exceed every other country beyond all comparison. Perceiving the Indian Corn to require the heat of America, and seeing it frequently hardly coming to maturity, even in the United States, in their most northern parts, I regarded our sun as wholly in-

sufficient for the purpose of ripening this valuable crop; until the accident, of which I shall speak more particularly in the next chapter, induced me to make that trial, which, upon a scale sufficiently large to obviate every doubt, has now convinced me of the contrary. But, this is not of the *same sort* as that of any of the corn that I ever saw in America, or that I had ever seen before I saw this sort. I have called it *dwarf* corn; but, that word does not sufficiently designate it. There are, in America, two or three sorts of corn called *dwarf;* but, they all differ greatly from this: of those sorts I shall have to say more in the next chapter. ARTHUR YOUNG, in his "Travels in France, Spain, and Italy," describes the great and numerous advantages attending the cultivating of maize or Indian Corn; and, though he takes it for granted, that the corn will not *ripen* in England, he recommends the planting of it *merely for the sake of its great produce of excellent fodder.* If Mr. YOUNG had lived until now, he would have seen, that we can have both grain and fodder.

Plate.1.

CHAPTER II.

Description and History of Cobbett's Corn, and an Account of the Several Sorts of it.

11. On the opposite page is a pretty accurate representation of a plant of Indian Corn, of the sort of which I am about to treat, and to which, in order to distinguish it from other sorts, I give the name of "Cobbett's Corn." The height of the plant, from the ground to the tip-top, is, with good land and good culture, about four feet. The drawing exhibits a plant in its most beautiful state, with all its blades at their full size and length, with the bloom on the tassel, and with the silk hanging down from the ears, which are covered by their husks; *a* the TASSEL; *b*, the TOP; *c*, *c*, *c*, *c*, four of the BLADES; *d*, *d*, *d*, three EARS; *e*, *e*, *e*, the SILKS; *f*, *f*, the STALK; *g*, the ROOT. This is a representation of the plant as it stands in the month of August; late in that month, or early in September. The *tassel* is the *flower* of the *plant*, and it bears *farina* resembling that of the wheat-ear; but the grains, instead of being deposited in chests in the flower, are deposited in the *ears*, which come out of the stalk lower down, and the silk receives the farina as it falls, by which

the grain is impregnated. These ears are enveloped by thin leaves, which, all together, are called the *husk*. When the grains begin to be formed, there comes from each grain a little delicate thing, precisely resembling a single string of *raw silk*, only the former is of a pale and shining green. These strings all come out in time, at the point of the husk, and hang down, as at *e, e, e*. The *farina* drops from the *tassel* upon these *silks*. The part between the ears and the tassel, as at *b*, is called the *top*, which is, as will more fully be spoken of by-and-bye, cut off before the corn is ripe. The *blades*, as at *c, c, c, c*, are cut off at the same time; but this also will be spoken of hereafter. The *stalk*, *f, f*, is the stout part of the plant out of which the ears come. So that this plant consists of *stalk*, *ears*, *blades*, and *top*, and, at one stage of its progress, of *silks*. I will just state here, that the plant does not always bear *three* ears, but, sometimes more, and sometimes only one, according to the ground and culture. I have had, this year, *seven* ears, coming out of one stalk; but, I look upon three as a fair average, in good land, with good culture, and with proper distances. There are most commonly two or three *suckers* to each plant; but these will be spoken of hereafter.

12. As to the *name*, we English people take it from the Americans; who, soon after the first

settlers arrived in America from England, found the corn in use among the natives of the country, who must have received it from the hand of a gracious Providence. Those natives, whom the French called savages (or wild people), we have always called *Indians;* and hence the word Indian was put before the word corn. But, in all countries except England and America, it goes by the name of *maize*, or *mais*, or by some name other than that of Indian corn. In America, the word Indian is generally dropped, and the thing is called corn, which word is never applied to wheat, barley, oats, or rye, all which receive the general appellation of *grain*.

13. The cultivation of Indian corn is, doubtless, as old as the world itself; and I think there can be no doubt, that, in general, those texts of Scripture in which the word "CORN" is used, always allude to this corn, and not to wheat or any other grain. It is well known, that, in Egypt and in all the countries, where the transactions recorded in both testaments took place, this corn is cultivated as the principal crop; and the French frequently call it *blé de Turquie*, or Turkish corn, it having, in all likelihood, been introduced into France many centuries ago, from Turkey in ASIA during the holy wars.

14. Until I went to NEW BRUNSWICK (an English colony), some part of which is five hundred miles to the north of Boston, and actually made

many meals upon *ears of corn* in their green state, I used to be greatly puzzled by that text of Scripture (St. Matthew, chap. xii., ver. 1,) which told me that, " at that time Jesus went " on the Sabbath day through the corn: and his " disciples were an hungered, and began to pluck " the ears of corn and to eat."

15. I thought it, in the first place, rather strange, that they should have gone *through* the corn; for we do not say *through* wheat or through barley, as we do through a *wood*, through an *orchard*, or through a *coppice;* but I thought it still more strange that they should have eaten *ears* of wheat, of barley, or of rye. When I came to walk or ride through the corn fields of America, I understood how Jesus and his disciples might have gone through the corn in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem; and when I came to eat the *ears* of corn, and to find them so delightful, all the mystery was explained; and when I observed how careful the American farmers were to preserve the produce of their corn fields, I was not at all surprised that the Pharisees, who were, I presume, the Quakers of Palestine, should have been so angry, and have picked such a German quarrel with our Saviour and his disciples on that memorable occasion.

16. Though I was very young at that time, I had been a great reader of the Bible; upon which the parsons will remark, that it is a pity that I

omitted to learn from it that tithes were instituted by God himself. I beg pardon of their reverences, for I did observe it; but I observed, at the same time, that those who were to receive the tithes were forbidden to have any inheritance in the land, and were commanded to share the tithes with the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger; a forbidding on the one hand, and a command on the other, which their reverences seem to have wholly overlooked. But, not further to digress, I had read in the 2d book of Kings, and in the second verse of the fourth chapter that, "There came a man from Baal-"shalisha, and brought for the man of God "twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn "in the *husks* thereof, and said, give unto the "people that they may eat." Now, I could understand the utility of giving them barley bread; but what was I to think of giving them *wheat* ears, or *rye*, or *barley* ears to eat? And then, as to bringing the corn in the *husks*; how were the ears to be brought otherwise than in the husks? The husk of wheat or of barley *makes a part of the ear;* so that the text, taken altogether, I should have called nonsense, if I had found it in any other book; downright nonsense, or, rather, a ridiculous falsehood. Finding it where I did, I regarded it as extremely mystical; but when I came to go to "husking frolics" in NEW BRUNSWICK,

which I did, for the first time, at the house of a farmer, of the name of SMITH, who had come from RHODE ISLAND, who was a loyal man, had left the rebels in the United States, and who had, in my esteem, the additional recommendation of having brought a very pretty and gay daughter along with him; when I came to go to this *husking frolic*, I found that the husk consisted of the delicate leaves which envelop the ears of corn; and since that time I have seen scores of waggon loads of ears in their green state, with the husks on, for sale in the markets of PHILADELPHIA and NEW YORK. Now, then, I understand why the man brought from Baal-shalisha full ears of corn in the husks, and why it was that he tendered them to the people that they might eat.

17. I had met with another stumbling block, in the 24th verse of the 24th chapter of Job, where it is said, that the wicked, though they flourish and hold up their heads for a while, are "cut off as the *tops* of the ears of the corn." This puzzled me exceedingly. I wondered how it could possibly be the custom in any country to clip off the tops of the ears of the corn when it was standing; and it must have been the custom, or else this simile could not have been made use of. What a strange people it must have been, I said to myself, to be in the habit of cutting off

the tops of the ears of wheat, barley, or rye! But when I came to see the *topping* of the corn in America, and heard the upper part of the plant called the *corn-top*, I saw that it must always have been the universal *practice* to "cut off the tops of the corn" in all the countries where it had been cultivated, and to leave standing the stalk and the ears; and, as to the text, which says, "cut off like the tops of *the ears* of the corn," I ascribed the error to the circumstance, that the translators had, like myself, been born and bred in a country where corn was not grown; and that they had not had the good fortune to be travellers. They knew that the *tops* of wheat, barley, and rye, were the *ears;* and, they could not believe, that an inspired writer would have compared the *wicked* to the *ears* of wheat. They, therefore, thought it better to compare them to the "*tops of the ears*," though their readers were still left to be surprised and puzzled on the subject.

18. I found a fourth text of Scripture to puzzle me even more than all these. In LEVITICUS, chap. ii., ver. 14, I had read an injunction to offer, as a "meat offering of first fruits unto the Lord, "*green ears of corn* dried by the fire, *even corn* "*beaten out of full ears.*" These last words which I have put in *italics* must be an interpolation; for, how could they *beat* the grain out of *green* ears? And how could the ears be *full* if they were

green? Besides, what a curious meat offering to parch green grains of wheat by the fire! And why not say whether they were to be of wheat, barley, rye, or oats? Why call it *corn*, when all the other instructions were so minute? Oh, no; this meat offering was to consist of ears of green corn; that is to say, corn in the milky state, *roasted* before the fire; and no wonder that it was chosen as an offering, for the most delicious thing it is that ever delighted the palate of human being. I shall by-and-bye show, that the general way of cooking these green ears, as the Americans call them, is to boil them, and to eat them as bread along with meat, or sometimes with butter; but at present, here is quite enough to show that this was the corn of which the Scripture speaks; and that it was always in great, in universal, use in the countries which were the scenes of the events and transactions recorded in the Bible. The context would add additional conviction, if any were wanted; for the fifteenth verse says, "thou "shalt *put oil upon it*, and lay frankincense "thereon." Now we, when we have roasted our ears of corn before the fire, put *butter* and salt thereon, and then we eat them, and make them a meat offering to ourselves.

19. These might suffice; but, while I could add a dozen texts, I cannot refrain from adding three more. In Deuteronomy, chap. xxiii. verses

24 and 25, there is an injunction regarding the conduct of people who may be in want of food, which is expressed in the following words: "When thou comest into thy neighbour's vine-"yard, then thou mayest eat grapes thy fill, at thy "own pleasure; but thou shalt not put any in thy "vessel. When thou comest *into* the standing "corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest *pluck* "*the ears with thine hand*; but thou shalt not move "the sickle into thy neighbour's corn." This was a business of eating, and the word *sickle* has been used in the translation, from the ignorance of the translators of the local circumstances. We know very well it must have been the practice to eat grapes, as we know it is the practice in Indian Corn countries for people to pluck off the ears and bite the milky corn from the cobb; but who would have thought it necessary to lay down a law, for permitting people to eat *green* ears of wheat or barley?

20. In LEVITICUS, chap. xxiii. and verse 14, the Israelites are told: "Ye shall eat neither "bread nor parched *corn*, nor *green ears*, until "the self same day, until you have brought an "offering unto your God." The parched corn talked of here, means that which is called *homany*, in VIRGINIA and the CAROLINAS, and a very fine dish it is; and, as to the *green ears*, it must be pretty clear, I think, that it would have been

regarded as no very severe penance to be compelled to refrain from eating green ears of *wheat, rye, or barley,* for as to *oats,* the chief aliment of the labouring people of the northern parts of this island, the chosen people of God seem to have known no more about them than they did about the accursed potatoe; the word *oat* never having been seen by me in any part of the two Testaments.

21. But, to conclude this Scriptural history of the corn, I beseech the reader, if he have still any doubt upon the subject, to look at Genesis, chapter xli. verse 5, which gives an account of Pharoah's dreams. "And he slept and dreamed a "second time; and, behold, *seven* ears of *corn* "came up upon *one stalk,* rank and good." Now, this can leave no doubt in the mind of any man. The *wheat* root will send up sometimes, if it have room, from twenty to fifty *stalks,* but never more than *one ear* upon *one stalk.* Wheat, barley, and rye, all send out not only seven, but a great many more than seven, stalks from the same root, but never was there yet seen more than one ear at the top of one stalk. Seven ears is a great number for a corn plant to have; but (and the fact is truly curious) the New York Evening Post, of the 26th of August last, records as a *wonder;* a corn stalk, on the farm of a Mr. DICKERSON, in Bedford county, having *seven* full ears upon it. And, it happens singularly enough, that one

single corn plant, in my field, has, on one stalk, seven ears of corn.

22. A great many things that we find in the Bible, and which puzzle us exceedingly, must have arisen from the want of local knowledge in the translators, of which I have here given some very striking instances. I believe most sincerely, that none of the translators ever thoroughly understood the Hebrew tongue; and, as we have such a large parcel of learned men, and as we pay them so dearly for their learning, is it not a sort of duty imposed upon them, to take these seven texts of Scripture which I have mentioned, and either find out themselves, or get some old Rabbi to find out for them, an accurate translation of these, and many other passages, in the Bible, which really stagger hundreds of thousands of persons. I have done my share here; let the parsons that own the tithes of our sixteen thousand parishes, each of them do some little matter in this way.

23. It is curious to observe how strictly the Americans have, in naming the different parts of this plant, adhered to the appellations of Holy Writ. The fruit they call corn, the fruit and the cobb they call the ear, the delicate leaves which envelop the ear they call the husk, as it is called in the above quotation from the Second Book of Kings; the part of the plant, which towers up above the ear, they call the *top*, as it is called in

the above quotation from the Book of JOB; and the ear, when the corn is in its milky state, they call a *green ear*. They roast it, too, just as the Israelites did in the days of Moses.

24. So completely is the word corn confined to the fruit of this plant, in America, that the people do not understand you to mean any thing but Indian Corn, when you use the word corn. I believe I have related it before, but I will relate again, that being in a tavern in LONG ISLAND, in the year 1817, where the landlord, whose name was Howell, and who was a very worthy man, was showing to me and my sons, and to two Frenchmen that were with us, some of the longest and finest ears of his corn, which he had just then gathered in. After looking at them for some time, and expressing a due portion of admiration at their length and circumference, I, with apparent carelessness, pulled out of my pocket an English Courier newspaper, in a paragraph of which the Editor, in a style of deep but decorous lamentation, usual on such occasions, was *sorry* to have to state, that the son of a noble Peer, who had gone to Paris to be present at some grand display of the Duke of WELLINGTON, was in a very dangerous state, from having *swallowed a whole ear of corn*. HOWELL, who had paid very little attention to the lachrymose part of the paragraph, started up upon hearing the conclusion, and ex-

claimed, "*a whole ear of corn!* no wonder that "poor JOHN BULL is in such a miserable state, "if his Lords have got *swallows* like that."

25. You have a hard matter to persuade the country people in America, that there can be any nation upon the earth without corn. I remember that our good old hostess, Mrs. WIGGINS, at whose tavern we lodged upon our arrival in Long Island, in 1817, when driven into exile by the power-of-imprisonment bill of Sidmouth and Castlereagh, asked me *what sort of corn* we liked best in England; and it was with the greatest possible difficulty that I could make her believe that we had no corn at all; that is to say none of that which they call corn. "But," said she, "how do the people live, then?" I told her that we had plenty of wheat, barley, rye, oats, pease, and beans; but still she could not conceive how a people could live without corn; how they could have pork, how they could have poultry, how, in short, they could live and have any thing like a sufficiency of food; and, as the Americans, very much to their honour, and contrary, as far as I have observed, to almost all the rest of the world, wish for every people upon earth to have all the good things which they have, how many scores of times have I heard American farmers lament that Indian Corn would not grow in Old England! And, I am sure that the account of my

crop, which will convey to them an assurance of the fact, that corn will grow in England, will give heartfelt pleasure to hundreds of thousands of men, who are amongst the very best, or, at least, the most hospitable, that this world ever produced.

26. With regard to the *several sorts of corn*, they are, perhaps, as numerous as the sorts of wheat, of which we know from thirty to forty in number. In the first place, these sorts are divided into the *Yellow* and the *White;* next into the *Early* and the *Late*; of each of which there are several of both colours. Then there are several sorts of each colour, and also several degrees in the earliness and the lateness of the different sorts of the same colour. The white corn is, in America, generally called *flint-corn*, and the yellow is called *golden-corn*. It is an invariable rule, that the later the corn is, that is to say, the stronger heat it requires, the taller it is. I have some corn plants now standing in my garden at Kensington, which were twelve feet high before the tops were cut off. The early sorts of corn in America; those sorts which ripen in NEW ENGLAND, in NEW BRUNSWICK, and sometimes even, in here and there a spot of that wretched country, NOVA SCOTIA; all these sorts will occasionally ripen in England with great care and with favourable summers. I imported last year

some early corn from NEW YORK. I sold the greater part of it, and reserved a little to plant in my field. It is now (twenty-ninth of October) not very far from being ripe in some instances, notwithstanding the badness of the summer. I believe that if these early sorts of American Corn were planted in good ground, tilled very carefully, and planted as early as the nature of the plant would admit, that the corn would ripen three times out of four. I planted it year after year, for ten years, in HAMPSHIRE, and always planted from seed of my own saving. I thought that it came more and more early, and adapted itself more and more to the climate; though this is contrary to the general rules relative to seeds.

27. But, though these sorts of American Corn are very grand to look at, they are not *sure* as to ripening; they want all the heat that we have in our best summers, and as little of our wet as may be. The only corn that can be cultivated here, that I know any thing of, is the sort of corn which I have now cultivated with such success. It is in *quality* nearly as good as the American Corn, and as to quantity, it produces a great deal more; of which however, I shall have to produce a proof by-and-bye. Two ears of this corn were brought to England, early in the year 1826, by Mr. William Cobbett, my eldest son, who obtained them from

a gentleman in the province of ARTOIS, who had cultivated the plant in his garden a great many years, but who seemed not to have a very distinct recollection of the manner in which he came by the seed; having, probably, several sorts, and having confounded one with the other.

28. My son, when he first showed me the two ears of corn (which were very small ones), urged me strongly to cause it to be introduced into general cultivation, as he was convinced that it would always ripen in England, and that the crop would be greater than that of any other sort of Indian Corn. When the spring of the year came, he planted the two ears in my garden at Kensington; but very little attention was paid to it, and it was planted about here and there in situations rejected on the part of every thing else. Nevertheless, the corn ripened, and bore about half a bushel of ears, a great many of the plants having been pulled up during the summer, and a part of the corn having been eaten green. Some time in the winter my son renewed the subject of cultivating this corn, and gave, as a proof of its readiness to ripen in this country, the fact of its having ripened during the preceding summer. I was too full of the notion that there required more sun than the country affords to ripen any corn upon an average of years; and, I observed, that the summer of 1826, was a summer of ten

thousand, it having been hot during the whole of the summer, and during the autumn into the bargain. He did not press his solicitations further at that time; and, as I did not appear to intend to make use of the seed which he had saved, he, reserving a few ears, which he gave to me, sent off the remainder to our friend Mr. WALKER, of Worth, in Sussex.

29. In the month of June, 1827, my son and I slept one night in the same room in the garden house at BARN-ELM. The night was very hot, and neither his bed nor mine was cool enough to permit us to get to sleep, in a case like which people generally get to talking; and I, in a mood, half between restlessness and laziness, asked him, whether Mr. WALKER had planted his corn. He said he had; and that led him off into a train of arguing, the object of which was to maintain his former opinion relative to the great benefits that would attend the cultivation of this crop. He entered into a calculation of the distances, the space of ground required by each plant, the number of plants upon an acre, the number of ears upon a plant, the quantity of seed upon an ear, ending in a statement of the amount of the crop per acre. He then dwelt upon the quantity and value of the fodder, upon the facility of cultivation, upon the small quantity of seed required for an acre; and, finally, upon

the preparation which the growing of the crop would make for a succeeding crop of wheat.

30. At last, I became interested, as the old woman did at the sermon, merely by dint of the length of the endeavour to convince me. "It's a pity," said the old girl, "to give the gentleman so much trouble to save our souls, and we go to the Devil after all." I do confess that I was very hard to be convinced; I became interested to be sure, and I resolved to give the thing a trial immediately, if possible, or rather to set about it immediately; but, I confess, that if the thing had been urged upon me by almost any other person, I should not have done it; and that I did it, after all, from a desire to avoid treating with indifference that which my son had taken so much pains to convince me was an object of importance, and one well worthy of the attention of a person to whom so many thousands of the people were ready to look up for useful information.

31. "Well then," said I, "William, we will give your little corn a trial, for it is not too late yet." But, now, a difficulty that appeared to be insuperable arose; namely, *that the seed was all gone!* The seed was all planted in Sussex. As soon as I reflected on this, I became really eager to make the experiment; so true it is, that we seldom know the full value of what we have had till we have lost it. I recollected however, that I

had rather recently, seen an ear or two of this corn in some seed drawers that I had in the garden house, not being quite sure, however, that they were of the true sort; and now, I, who had so long turned from the subject rather with indifference, could not go to sleep for my doubts, my hopes, and fears, about these two bits of ears of corn. We had no light, or I should have got up to go and hunt the boxes which I did as soon as day light appeared, and there, to my great joy, I found two bits of ears of corn, which from the size and shape of the cobb, I knew to be of the true sort. This was upon the 8th of June in the morning. We rubbed the seeds from the cobbs, put them into lukewarm water, and soaked them until the next day, in order to hasten their vegetation. The next morning we dug up a flat piece of ground, and manured it well, and planted the corn with great care, at just about the same distances that I have planted my corn this year. We had just seed enough to plant three quarters of a rod of ground. The plants were up at the end of about five days, the weather being very warm and fine; and, as soon as they had attained the proper height, they were nicely hoed, and were, during the summer, cultivated with great care. The crop was rather short of a bushel of *shelled* corn; that is to say, corn rubbed off from the cobb and fit for the mill. There was some little

part of it destroyed by mice before I perceived it, but, to put the crop at the lowest, it was seven gallons, Winchester measure, of shelled corn. Now multiply two hundred and thirteen, which is the number of three quarter rods in an acre, by seven, the number of gallons upon this three quarters of a rod; and you will find the result will be, one thousand four hundred and ninety one gallons, which divided by eight (the number of gallons in a bushel), the result will be one hundred and eighty-six bushels and three gallons to one acre of land, statute measure; that is to say, a hundred and sixty rods to the acre, the rod being sixteen feet and a half long.

32. With this seed, with the produce of this three quarters of a rod of ground, together with a little that I got from Mr. WALKER, in Sussex, I planted my field at Barn-Elm, which field I am persuaded will cause this plant to be cultivated all over England, Ireland, and even Scotland; so that, in this case, as well as in so many others, a mighty event will arise, I will not call it from a trifling, but certainly from an accidental cause; for, in all probability, if our proneness to sleep on the 7th June, 1827, had not been thwarted by the heat, and the enchanting songs of those sirens the fine English gnats, which are certainly "love children" of those more sonorous and more harmonious songsters the musquitos, in all pro-

bability the growing of Indian Corn in England might have been deferred for another century or two. The moment I saw this plat of corn ripening, planted as it was on the 9th June, I declared that I would have a field of Indian Corn; and, not being able to discover any chance of getting a field near London, by any other means than by the renting of this farm, I rented it, though, as to any other purpose to which it might be put, I was by no means anxious.

33. This is the true history of the introduction of Indian Corn into England, where it will now be cultivated as long as the island will be habitable, which certainly would not have been for any great length of time, if the late Kent Meeting had suffered us to be handed quietly over to the SHEAS and the SHIELS, and those other illustrious orators, on the other side of the water, who bewitch the ears and the hearts of mankind by speeches, consisting of words that are never heard, and that, before they are spoken, start into print, in the shape of full capitals, small capitals, roman letter, and italic, divided and subdivided by commas, semi-colons, colons, and periods; and decorated with "hear, hear, hear, and thunders of applause;" and with marks of admiration in single, in duplicate, and triplicate, astounding the sight and subduing the hearts of the Kentish

"boors" and of all the rest of us who sympathise with them. It is hard to say how long the island would have been inhabited if this had been suffered to take place; but, as long as it will be inhabited, so long will this corn now be one of its principal crops.

CHAPTER III.

On the soil and the preparation of it, proper for the Corn, and on the season for planting it in England.

34. CORN, like grain and most other things of any value, grows best, and is most productive, in good land; but, with some very few exceptions, with regard to the very wet and stiff clays, and with regard to shade particularly, I know of hardly any land in England, on which there might not be produced a tolerably good crop of Indian Corn, which would certainly succeed, in numerous cases, on land much too poor to yield a good crop of wheat, or even a good crop of barley, or oats, or rye. I have seen it grown in America, in fields which would have borne neither of these, and this in thousands and thousands of instances. It is regarded as what we call a *fallow-crop*, as well as a productive crop. I have seen fields which have lain for several years without producing any thing but a little miserable grass, liberally mixed with red sorrel and other weeds, which will live when all other plants will perish. Such a field as this is ploughed up, shallowly, as soon as the frost is out of the ground in the spring,

which, speaking of PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY, and LONG ISLAND, is some time in the month of March, earlier in some years than in others. In this state the ground lies until the beginning of May, when it is harrowed, or rather scratched over, several times, but not in a manner sufficient to bring up the sward that has been buried by the plough. This harrowing is generally performed in LONG ISLAND by a boy, who rides a horse that drags the harrow after him; sometimes it is done by a yoke of oxen; but it is repeated very often, and until the ground on the surface are broken very fine.

35. The next operation is the marking. The corn is there planted in hills, or clumps. Not on raised heaps of ground; but, as it finally becomes a hill by the earthing up of the corn, it is called a hill of corn, as we say a hill of hops. Neither is planted upon a hill, but the spot, by means of the cultivation, becomes a hill before the end of the summer. The marking, which is intended to point out the places where the hills are to be, and where the corn is to be planted, is executed thus, a boy being generally the operator. He gets upon a horse which has trace harness on, the traces being well held up by hip-straps, and kept asunder by a short spreader behind him; and these traces are hooked on to a log, smooth and pretty heavy, and rounded at

the end nearest to the horse, and, perhaps, from eight to ten feet long. Thus mounted, the boy begins on the straightest side of the field, and makes a mark all along with his log. When he gets to the end he turns his horse round, and having placed the log at the width of four feet from his first mark, away he goes to the other end, making another mark as he goes. He then turns again, and thus he goes on till he has gone over the whole field in that direction. If the sides of the field be crooked, he makes short marks, so as to fill up the whole.

36. When this is done, he begins to go cross-ways the field, making his marks at four feet from each other as before; and the sequel shows, that, incredible as the fact is, he generally performs the operation with great geometrical truth. All country people, I mean farming people, are remarkable for true sight in the measuring of spaces and distances, and this is particularly the case with the people of America.

37. The next operation is the *manuring* of the field. A man or boy, with a light wagon, and two horses which he drives with reins (I wish I had such a wagon), goes into the field with well rotted and finely broken manure, which has been turned up, a year before, and has been turned over several times, until it be as fine as it can be made. He carries a shovel in his wagon, and

tosses down about half an English shovel full, or less, upon every crossing that the boy has made with his log. He does not mind the effect of the wheels upon the rest of the field, as he goes backward and forward; the marks of the wheels have no resemblance to the marks of the log, and do not at all confuse him in his work. It would surprise an English farmer to see how much a single man will do in a day, of this sort of work.

38. Next comes the work of planting the corn, which is performed in this manner. The planter has a good large *waistcoat pocket* or two, into which he puts his seed. He has a hoe in his hand, a good stout English hoe, with which, when he comes to the hill, that is to say, where he finds the two or three double handsful of manure, he gives the manure a chop or two to make it in a level form; he then takes five seeds out of his pocket, tosses them down upon the manure, with most admirable indifference as to their distribution upon the spot; and having raked up with his hoe a little fresh earth to cover the seeds about an inch deep, which he does at one stroke, unless a rock, stone, or a stump, happen to be in his way, he gives the earth upon the top of the seeds a stamp with his foot, and the corn is planted.

39. It is true that very great crops do not

arise from soil and preparation like this; but crops do arise from it, if there be due and true *after cultivation*, upon which the common farmer in America principally relies nine times out of ten. In England an old *ley*; that is to say, a field which has lain for two or three years after barley and clover, would do very well, ploughed up in February, and planted either in hills or in rows, with just a little manure immediately under the seeds to give them a start, as the Americans call it. It is the *after cultivation* upon which the corn planter may, on the TULLIAN principle, place his principal reliance.

40. The *best* preparation for corn, I should think to be the same as that for barley, the land prepared in precisely the same manner, and to be ready for planting in barley-sowing time. There is, too, one very cogent reason for preferring this preparation to that before mentioned; and that is, that here, you are not exposed to the ravages of the black, or rather the brown grub, or the wire-worm, both of which are apt to be found in great abundance amongst the crops that succeed *leys*, or any ground that has long been unploughed. When wheat is sowed in this country upon a ley with a once ploughing, the plant is very frequently much injured by these mischievous things. The wire-worm enters the spear, just above the seed, and eats out the heart.

The brown grub keeps snugly just under the surface of the ground in the day time, comes out at night, bites off the plant nearly close to the ground, and re-enters its retreat.

41. I was once going by the house of a quaker in LONG ISLAND, and drove up to it for the purpose of getting entertainment for man and horses. After introductory matter, I said, "how is your corn?" which is the common question in that country. He shook his head, and said, "Now, "WILLIAM COBBETT, can thee, that knows so "many things, tell how to destroy the *brown* "grub?" "Ah," said I, "that devil has mas- "tered me all my life-time. Your only remedy "is patience, or absolutely going with a candle "and lantern, and watching every plant all "night long." After breakfast he took me into his field, which was in fact an orchard, with trees widely planted in it, and which, according to the custom of the country, had been ploughed up at the fourth or fifth year, for the double purpose of benefiting the trees and obtaining a crop of corn. It was fine land, some of the best in the whole ISLAND, on the side of one of the little inlets from the east river. The sight was truly distressing. The cursed creatures (saving their right of nature) had cut off the corn, when it was two inches and a half or three inches high, hill after hill, in many places for ten hills toge-

ther. The owner had been preparing himself for beating all his neighbours in this prime crop, and he saw all his hopes blasted from this miserable cause. I went and raked round some of the hills with my finger, and we found a dozen grubs together in some places, lying under the clods, contemplating the pleasures of the feast of the next evening or night. In a country where numerous hands could have been obtained at a moderate expense, the crop might have been saved to a considerable extent. Such means were not at command here; and when I saw my friend in the fall of the year, I found that he had not had five bushels upon an acre, where he ought to have had fifty at least.

42. This danger must always exist if you plant upon a once ploughing in land matted with weeds or with grass; and, therefore, I recommend by all means, the avoiding of such tillage of the land for corn. If my friend, the Quaker, had sowed the land with wheat, or rye, or barley, the grub might have done some mischief, even amidst such a superabundance of plants; but in the case of Indian Corn, where the number of plants must be neither more nor less; where the number must be actually counted, and their distances geometrically fixed, the depredations must be fatal. But, the corn is by no means nice like barley: it does not require a previous sheep-fold-

ing, and several ploughings, and such very fine tilth all over the surface; it may come after wheat or any other white-straw crop, so that the ground has but a good deep winter ploughing, and another ploughing and a good breaking to pieces in April, and so that it has a little manure along the drills, if it be to be in rows; or, upon the crossings if it be to be in hills.

43. If the soil be very stiff, it must be well laid up to take the frosts of the latter part of the winter, particularly to be dried by the winds of March, so that it may be made fine in April. I should not recommend to plant it where the clay is stiff, where the bottom is wet, or particularly near the shade of trees; for, though it will do pretty well in a widely planted orchard in America, where the sun sends his rays through an apple-tree with such force, it will not endure shade in our country; and even in the shade of America, it seldom comes to much when near to the north side of a wood.

44. Any land, I say any land, without exception, that will bear oats; not wheat or barley, but oats, or even buck-wheat, may be made to bear a tolerable crop of Indian Corn. On gravel, on chalk, however, near the surface, corn will do very well, if aided by a little manure, and especially by good summer tillage, for which the distances at which it is planted furnish most amply

the convenient means. There are, to be sure, such miserable sands, such bare-boned gravels, and such spewy white stuff as you find in the sweet valleys of BAGSHOT HEATH. Here nothing will grow, and God never intended that any thing should grow, except heath and furze, to furnish fuel to poor people, and wire grass to furnish food for their asses. These spots, which a wise and merciful Providence would seem to have made so worthless, for the express purpose of preventing the rich from being tempted to take them from the poor, but which, in spite of the manifestly implied injunction, have been taken from them in almost every part of the kingdom, never were intended by nature to bear corn or grain of any sort; and they never do bear it, unless the means of production be actually brought from other parts and put upon them. But, I repeat, that any land, which will bear a crop of grain of any sort, even an inferior crop of grain, may be made to carry a tolerably good crop of Indian Corn.

45. One principal thing, is, in every case, to have the ground deeply ploughed late in the winter, or in March, and ploughed again and well broken in April; and, not to plough in, the first time, any immense stock of grass or of weeds, to generate or harbour grubs or slugs. It is not only in grass-land that the brown grub is generated and cherished. A good stock of weeds

will nearly do the same; and these, by their summer shade, will harbour the slugs, which, though *they may be mastered* pretty completely in the case of corn, and that too, at a trifling expense, are much better kept away altogether; for, if you neglect them, at the time when the corn is young, they commit dreadful havoc; and it is always to be recollected, that there is not, in the case of corn, that superabundance of plants, which is always found in the case of any of our white-straw crops; and this is always to be borne in mind, when we are preparing land for corn. The *fences*, also, which inclose corn fields, ought to be as clear from grass and weeds as possible; or, at least, they ought to afford as little harbour as may be for slugs and snails, which, if care be not taken, will sally out and bite off the corn, soon after it has come up. A method of destroying them will be pointed out by-and-bye; but the less harbour there is for them near the corn, the better. Lofty and thick hedges, and hedge rows, harbour birds, which are mischievous, both in the spring and in the fall; but if there must be such hedges or hedge rows, the greater must be the care to prevent dilapidation from their inhabitants.

CHAPTER IV.

On the Season for Planting Corn.

46. In Long Island the season for planting corn is, from the 10th to the 20th of May; that is to say, so as to get it out of the ground as early as possible, without exposing the young plants to the pinchings of the frost, which is frequently pretty sharp in that country so late as the first week in June. In my "Year's Residence" I notice, that, on the 1st of June, I saw a man covering over something in his garden in the evening. I stopped and asked him what he was covering so carefully; he said, "*kidney-beans.*" "Oh," said I, "it is good to know that: Memo-"randum, there are sharp frosts in Long Island "on the 1st of June; frosts, at any rate, suffi-"cient to destroy kidney-beans." But, the Indian corn plant is not so tender, by any means, as that of the kidney-bean. The corn was three inches high at the time I am speaking of.

47. The corn plant is not destroyed by a frost such as I have been speaking of; but, though not destroyed by such a frost, it does not like it; and it tells you that very plainly by the yellow

colour that it assumes the second day after it has suffered from the frost. It remains in this yellow state till there comes a warm night, and then it goes back again to its colour of bright green. But, these frosts repeated upon it, give it a great check, from which it does not very soon recover; so that the Americans endeavour to hit the precise time to get the plants up as early as that can be done without running the risk of a check which shall more than counterbalance the earliness of the germination. This point of time is, with them, from the 10th to the 20th of May.

48. I, having this season so long fixed in my mind, chose it for the planting of my corn this year; but I am convinced that I was too late. We have, indeed, sharp frosts sometimes in May; and I, since I have lived at Kensington, have had all my kidney-beans completely cut off, and my strawberry blossoms rendered fruitless, by a frost in June. This, however, is not the case one year out of ten, at the most; and even a frost like this, would not kill plants of Indian Corn. It might greatly check them: it might even make the tips of the blades turn brown; but the plants would speedily recover, especially if well treated, from the effects of any of our frosts in May or June, which are by no means so sharp as those which they have in LONG ISLAND at that season of the year. I would, therefore, and will, plant my corn between

the 15th and 20th of April. This will bring it all up by the 7th or 8th of May; which is about the time for closing the barley-sowing; and it is desirable on another account, to be mentioned by-and-bye, that the planting should take place at this time of the year.

49. Though I state this to be the time that I would choose, we have not at all times the power of choosing; and, we are not, because we cannot have precisely what we like, to reject altogether that which we may have. I have now (29th October), in my garden at Kensington, some corn, planted in the first week in June. It is perfectly ripe and hard, though I mean to let some of it stand till Christmas, in order to ascertain to what length a lazy farmer may go without incurring the destruction of his crop. I am pretty safe from birds at Kensington; from the sparrows I mean, which come and settle upon the plants, and hammer out the grains from the tops of some of the ears as soon as they are ripe; otherwise the corn would be materially injured by Christmas. I have given an instance in paragraph 29, of a prodigious crop upon three quarters of a rod of ground, which was planted on the *ninth of June*, having been soaked twenty-four hours before it was planted. My large field of this year was planted between the 7th of May and the 1st of June; a part of it in

the very last days of May; and the whole of it is ripe and hard.

50. But, though this late planting may take place, it is desirable to plant at the time I have pointed out. Nevertheless, I do not wish to make a great point of this; for, there are numerous cases in which it might be desirable for the farmer, and very advantageous to him, to plant his corn in the middle, or, even at the end of May; we all know how, in certain cases, the turnips, or other feed in a field, might be advantageously reserved to be consumed on the land, until the latter end of May. We all know, how turnips, by being pulled up and laid upon the ground, might be continued in use till June, if it were not absolutely necessary to get the sheep off the land, in order to make way for the barley. You cannot sow barley, with a fair prospect, much later than the 1st of May. I remember a field of barley which was sowed on the 20th of May, and I remember my father saying; "if there be "a crop *there*, laziness will be in fashion all over "the country." If I remember correctly, there followed a dry summer, and a produce not worthy of being called a crop.

51. Now, this is not the case with Indian Corn, which I should have no hesitation, if circumstances demanded it, to plant until the latter

end of May; and, if the ground were rich, even so late as the first week of June. *Vetches*, or, as they are otherwise called, *tares*, might be sowed upon a wheat stubble, fed off by sheep in May, the plough following close to the heels of the fold, and with a deep and clean ploughing, and good harrowing and rolling, an excellent crop of corn might succeed. Now, this is what I venture to say may be done upon any good land, which has not a wet bottom. A crop of broad cast wheat, coming off in August, a crop of winter tares fed off in May, and a crop of Corn to come off at the end of the ensuing October, forming, in consequence of its summer tillage, the best possible preparation for wheat again, if you choose it.

52. This is what cannot be done by the means of any other routine of crops. The vetches would not, indeed, be a heavy burthen; they would not be any thing like a full crop of green food, if fed off at the time here pointed out; but they would be something; they would keep the sheep from the clover-fields and the meadows much longer than they can be usually kept; and thus, an addition would be made to the quantity of hay upon a farm. You cannot, by the greatest possible care and exertions, do more than get stubble turnips after wheat; and they must be all consumed by the middle of April, if you mean to sow barley.

You must have a winter fallow for summer-turnips: you cannot have them follow vetches, unless you sow them first, and transplant them afterwards. In short, without the Corn, the land cannot, by any means, be made to produce more than two-thirds of what it might be made to produce by the cultivation of corn, as one of the great crops of a farm.

53. I mean to say this, that a crop of wheat may be grown one year, and a crop of Corn the next year, on good land, which is not wet land, and that this may be continued for any number of years, with a less portion of manure than is usually required in the present course of crops, and I would always have vetches sowed after the wheat; the vetches fed off in the spring, and the ploughing and the corn-planting following close upon the heels of the fold until the first week of June, or at least till the last day in May. Observe, too, that this corn-planting comes after all the rest of the seed-season is over; it gives a little more of employment for another month; it keeps the labourers busy, and that, too, in the most pleasant season of the year, when they would, otherwise, have little or nothing to do.

CHAPTER V.

On the Mode of Planting Corn.

54. THERE are two ways of *placing*, or ranging, the plants upon the ground; one, in rows, and the other, in hills, in the manner of which I have spoken in paragraphs 35 to 38 inclusive. Of the act of planting I shall speak hereafter: first, I shall give my opinion as to which is the best of these two methods, and as to the distances necessary in each.

55. Corn likes a free circulation of air, as well as all the sun that it can get; and, if it be *tall*, the best way certainly is to place it in hills; for that gives air to all the plants, and prevents the shading that rows must produce. If, therefore, any one should choose to plant tall corn; and, from what I shall have to say hereafter, some persons may like to try the tall corn, then the hill fashion is certainly the best. If this be adopted, we should not make our marks with a *log*, as the Americans do; but, with a little plough, or something that ingenuity could very soon supply us with. Almost any thing might do for the purpose, so that it made the mark suffi-

ciently plain. And, I recommend, that, in all cases, where it can be done, the manuring, when that is necessary, should take place before the last ploughing of the ground preceding the time of planting.

56. If you determine on hills, you ought to place them four feet apart; and then, if you mark the ground *truly*, you may plough *longways* the field at one time and *crossways* at another time, as Mr. TULL saw them do in the vineyards of France, which gave rise to his famous book on the horse-hoeing husbandry, and which book was the foundation of all the improvements in agriculture in this country. This cross-ploughing, or horse-hoeing, is very good; it hills up the plants pretty completely without any hand-work, or with very little; and it leaves scarcely any thing to be done with the hoe. I shall hereafter speak of the relative quantity of plants and of seed, and also of the act of planting.

57. But, in the case of the *Dwarf-Corn, or* COBBETT-CORN, I prefer *rows*. My distances, this year, have been, plants *eight inches* apart in the row, and the rows *three feet* apart, which gives to each plant precisely two square feet of ground. But, I am convinced, that these are not the proper distances. Three feet do not give room for good, true, and tolerably deep *ploughing*; and that is the main thing in the cultivation of corn,

which, indeed, will not thrive well, if the ground be not deeply moved, and very near to the plants too, *while they are growing.* The *reasons* for this are given by Mr. TULL; but, I have seen enough of the experience. You will see, in America, a field of corn, late in June perhaps, which has not been ploughed, looking, to-day, sickly and yellow. Look at it in only four days' time, if ploughed the day after you saw it, and its colour is totally changed.

58. Now, you cannot plough deep and clean, and, indeed, you cannot perform any thing worthy of the name of *ploughing*, in so narrow a space as that of three feet: you require four feet at the least; and, for the reasons which I shall presently give, I prefer *five feet*, with a smaller distance between the plants in the row. This year I was compelled to content myself with hand-work; that is to say, with two miserable flat hoeings, which is tillage quite insufficient for Corn; it merely keeps down the weeds, and it hardly does that; for, as to digging, the work comes at a time of the year (hay-making and harvest) when hands are not to be got even here; for, be it known to those who did not know it before, a man will never dig, if he can get one half of the wages for playing with a little prong or wooden rake, or can partake in the divers joys or jovial society of hay-carting and harvest-carting, not to say a

word about the beer, which, if it flow at any time, is sure to flow then. Besides, with farmers in general, the digging of fields must be totally out of the question. The work must be done with the plough; and in the manner which, in the next chapter, I shall have to describe, when speaking of the summer cultivation.

59. You may, with great care, plough cleanly and deeply in the space of four feet; but you can do it with a great deal better, and with more facility, in a space of five. Besides, five feet leaves room for a small cart to go along the intervals to bring in the *tops*. I have been exceedingly troubled this year for the want of such spaces; there is not room sufficient in three feet even for the work of topping. The man disturbs one row as he is topping the other; and there is not room to spread the top sufficiently for them to receive the sun and air in order to their drying. From this cause my tops have been greatly lessened in value this year. Five feet intervals give good room for every thing; and, therefore, those are the intervals which I recommend, and which I certainly shall adopt myself.

60. Then, you may place the plants closer to each other in the row; and I intend to place mine at six inches apart, instead of eight, which was the distance at which they would have stood this year, if I had not at too late a period dis-

covered the working of the birds, and if the planting of the corn had been performed by very careful and very *silent*, instead of singularly careless and noisy men. And, let me here step aside for a moment to observe, that a man can hardly have a worse quality than that of being talkative while at work; or, as the country people call it, *mouthy*, which is the proper word to designate the quality. A man may be strong; he may be willing; he may be handy; but if he be *mouthy*, he is a disturber of the peace of the farm house, and you never can employ him with other men. His sonorous voice is sure to make all the rest prick up their ears: they talk too, if not in the way of emulation, in the way of reply or observation; and if you let them alone, you have a colloquial assembly rivalling in their way the Catholic association in Ireland. Up go the backs of them all: not that they want to rest themselves, or to slight your work; but, they want to reply or observe upon the interesting points mooted by the orator. I know a gentleman who says that there is but one thing worse than writing, and that is *talking*. On a farm, I would certainly prefer a writer to a talker; for then he would indulge his propensity at times when it would be no detriment to me.

61. However, in the planting of the Corn, silence is absolutely necessary, seeing that so much depends upon having the proper number

of plants, and having them properly placed. My crop has suffered greatly from the want of this silence at the time of the planting: if there be a talk going on, it is impossible that the planter should attend minutely to his distances.

62. With intervals of five feet, and plants at six inches in the row, you will find, that each plant would occupy *two and a half* square feet of ground, consequently, there would be a fifth less number of plants on an acre, than with intervals of three feet and distances of eight inches in the row; but, I am quite certain that the superior summer tillage, to say nothing of the cheapness of the tillage, and the advantage of conveniently taking off and harvesting the *tops*, would cause a much greater crop to be produced, than with intervals of three feet, and distances of eight inches in the row. Here would be scarcely any hand work at all. The plough might go deeply and very near to the plants. The last ploughing would help to earth them up with the greatest possible convenience; and, in short, whether as to air, sun, or any other circumstance, the intervals of five feet appear to me to be the best. Even, if the planting took place in hills as before mentioned, I should prefer five feet one way and four feet the other way, in order that a small cart might easily go between to take up the tops, without which the trouble of bringing them off is exceedingly great.

63. You might have two rows of corn at six inches apart in the row, the rows *two feet apart;* and your intervals of five feet. This would give you one plant upon every *one and three quarters* square feet of ground, which, of course, would give you ten plants for every seven that you would have the other way. I am not certain, not having made the experiment, in which of the two ways you would have the greatest crop to the acre; but, there would be, the two feet space between the two rows to be cultivated with the hoe: there would be that much of your ground which could not be deeply moved during the summer, besides the additional hand labour and expense. I myself will try this, upon a part of my land, but I am decidedly of opinion, that five feet intervals, with six inches distance in the rows, is the best method for my sort of corn.

64. With respect to small bits of ground, which may be conveniently cultivated with the spade, and from which the tops and blades can be carried off with little or no inconvenience: here the intervals may be three feet and the distances in the row, six or seven inches; because every plant can be attended to: care may be taken of every one, which cannot be the case in a large field. The narrow intervals, therefore, will of course be adopted by all poor men in their gardens or little plats of ground, which they will certainly apply

to this use, instead of that of planting potatoes, when they shall discover that a quarter of an acre of ground may be made to fat a couple of hogs, and give a great deal of good food to the family besides.

65. I now proceed to speak of the *act of planting*, which is a thing of the greatest importance; because, unless this be done properly, you have not the proper number of plants; the plants do not come up altogether as they ought to do; and, in short, according to the old saying, "the ship is lost for the want of a half-penny-worth of tar." I have before recommended that the manure, if any, should be in the ground previous to the last ploughing. The surface of the field being finely broken by the harrow, and by the roller if necessary; and, if you plant in hills, the marking having been performed, you go with a hoe, and make at every crossing a little place about a inch and a half deep, and about six inches in diameter, and there, taking from your waistcoat pocket five or six seeds, lay them down round the little place you have made; then, draw the earth over them, laying it upon the seeds to about an inch and a half deep, taking care that the earth be fine, and have no clods amongst it, and press the earth down upon the seeds with your foot or the back of your hoe. If the ground, in spite of your exertions, be generally rough upon the

surface and cloddy, you may readily find near the spot, fine earth enough to put upon the seeds; and, if you take care to do this, the general roughness of the ground is not of such very great consequence, especially when you plant in hills; for, the hand hoeing which is to be spoken of hereafter, and which is to take place just round the plants, will, if the proper season be chosen, sufficiently pulverise the earth near the plants, and the ploughings will completely do all the rest. In clayey ground, or very stiff ground, where it may have been impossible to get the surface of the field fine, I think that the hill method might be the best. With hills four feet apart one way, and five feet apart the othe way, and with six plants in each hill, you wou.. have one third less of plants than in rows five feet a part and plants at six inches in the row; but, the seed would be planted in hills, in stiff and cloddy land much more easily than in rows; because, rows will require drills; and it is more difficult to get a sufficiency of fine earth to cover a drill all along the field, than it is to find a sufficiency of it to cover the seed in the hills.

66. If you plant in rows, you must make a drill; which may be made by a drill plough, or by almost any of those things which are now in such general use in the business of drilling. The ground ought to be ploughed, at its last ploughing,

into lands of about five feet and a half wide. This, besides being a guide to the driller, would be an advantage, especially in shallow land, as it would give the plants an additional thickness of good soil to stand upon. Having this infallible guide, the ploughman or driller would find no difficulty in going straight from one end of the field to the other; and, even if the drills were drawn with the corner of a hoe, the drill drawer would require no other guide than the meeting of the two furrows at the top of the land; and as to the labour of drawing these little shallow drills, one man, with a sharp-cornered hoe, would draw the drills over several acres in one day. Care must be taken that the drills be not *too deep;* and that there be no holes in them from the pulling up of clods; and that they be smooth, or nearly so, at the bottom, so that the corn may be deposited at an equal depth all the way along the drill. It is like the planting of kidney beans, and as much care should be taken about it.

67. When the drill is made, comes the planter; and here the greatest possible care must be taken not to have planters who talk, or, as they say in the country, whose heads are filled with proclamations. There must be the exact number of plants upon the acre; and these must be at their proper distances; for it is surprising how much

is lost by *gaps*. Upon the best part of my field, this year, just about one third has been lost by gaps, occasioned partly by the birds and partly by the negligence of my planters, to whom circumstances prevented me from giving the proper overlooking. This is a matter of the greatest importance, and I beg, therefore, to press it upon the attention of the reader.

68. That a man, any man, should deposite the grains along a whole field precisely at six inches apart, is a thing not to be expected by any reasonable person. That which I could not do myself, I have certainly no reason to expect from an agricultural labourer. To *measure* every distance would be to make the work too tedious; but still the distances may be measured, and that too, with very little trouble, and with very little delay in the performance of the work; and the way that I intend to do the thing is this, suppose me to have three planters. I will have for each a little straight piece of wood, six feet long and perfectly straight. I will have it painted black, and have a white mark painted round it, all round it, at every six inches. The planter, with the grains in his pocket, lays down his stick on one side of the drill, and puts a grain at the bottom of the drill opposite to every mark upon the stick. He then moves his stick on and does the like again; and thus keeps on until the drill

be completed. Not only have we certainty here, as to number and situation of the plants; but we have also a great saving of time, for, the numerous *hesitations* that will stop a careful planter; his numerous doubts, and the many times that he will stop to take up a grain that he has already put down, in order to place it nearer to, or further off from, the last, that he has placed, take up a great deal of time; and I have no doubt in my own mind, that this certainty may be obtained by these means, at one half of the expense that we purchase the uncertainty arising from the leaving of the matter to the eye. The stick is shifted forward with the greatest facility in the world; the back is already bent; the hinder end of the stick is brought up to where the last grain is deposited, and then the planter goes on again. Nothing can be more true than this; nothing more easy; nothing requiring less adroitness or less thought. Nevertheless I by no means recommend the employing of girls or boys in this part of the business, nor even men that do not like to bend their backs, for such would be too apt to sloven the matter over after all.

69. After the planter comes a man with a little hoe to cover the seeds over with the earth; and this is a nice part of the business, especially if the ground be *cloddy;* for none but fine earth

should lie directly upon the top of the seeds. The earth should not be more than an inch and a half deep upon the seeds; but it should be pressed a little upon the seeds, either with the hoe or with the foot. Two men, one to plant and the other to cover, would, I should think, do three acres a day, in the month of April, and more in the month of May. A man with a hoe, would draw the drills of four acres in a day, in the single row fashion; so that here is as small an expense as the sowing of any sort of grain, be it what it may; even if the drills be drawn by hand. If you have two rows, the labour will be pretty nearly double.

70. In the case of the two rows, the *lands* must be seven feet wide instead of five. The drills, however, must be drawn in the same manner; but the guide for the drill-drawer will not be so good. In this case, too, care must be taken, that, in the drawing of one drill, the other, which is already drawn, is not disturbed by the feet of the man or the horse. If drawn by hand, the man who draws ought always to keep on the outside, lest he partly fill up the drill that is already drawn by the trampling of his feet.

71. *Transplanting* may, it is very possible, be the way to ensure the largest, and certainly the *earliest*, crop. I shall transplant an acre next year. I know that the plant will bear trans-

planting as well as a cabbage plant. I am of opinion that it is the least expensive mode of planting; and I know that it must be attended with several important advantages. One of which is, that you may transplant with safety so late as the *third week in June.* I have transplanted Corn many times in England, and once in America. I transplanted some in Long Island when it was two feet and a half high; and it was doing very well until my cattle broke in and destroyed it. I transplanted some last year, and it bore exceedingly well.

72. I intend to plant some corn in beds so early as the first of April. I shall make little drills across the beds, at four inches apart, and deposit the grains in them at four inches apart also. This gives twelve plants to every square foot, which is three thousand two hundred and sixty-four in a rod. Now, an acre in the row fashion, at six inches in the row, and intervals of five feet, requires seventeen thousand four hundred and eight plants, consequently six rods of ground, of beds, would be sufficient for the transplanting an acre.

73. These beds I shall make three feet wide, with an alley between them of fifteen inches wide. As soon as the plants are fairly up, I shall hoe between them with a very small hoe; and choosing, in the first place, good ground,

and not a very exposed aspect, for the purpose, I shall, if sharp frosts threaten, after the middle of April, about which time the plants will all be fairly up, give a little covering with hoops and mats, or, which is just as good, short stumps to lay hurdles upon; for the most trifling thing in the world will intercept the mischievous power of the frost. By the middle of May, these plants will be five or six inches high; and they will not have received any injury from their crowded situation.

74. The ground may now be ploughed, and the plants put in with the dibble without the drawing of any drill at all. The furrow mark at the top of the land will be sufficient for the planter; and his guide as to the distance from plant to plant will be the painted stick as in the former instance. But, perhaps, the quicker way in this case would be, and indeed I know that it would, for the planter to be preceded by another person, who should go on with the plants and the stick, and lay a plant down ready for him on every spot on which it was to stand. This work should be done in *dry* weather if possible, and should *follow closely upon the heels of the plough.* This is a thing prodigiously advantageous to the plants; for, a fermentation takes place in the earth at every moving, and here this fermentation

comes to the aid of the plant, which has a root ready formed to be operated upon, and which strikes off immediately.

75. Do not be afraid of the sun; for I have transplanted Corn, under the hottest sun, immediately after the spade or the plough. The plants will *droop* a little, for a day or two, but they will immediately revive, and will go on more vigorously than if they had never been transplanted. They are less prone to have *suckers* (of which I shall say more by-and-bye), than plants are which are not transplanted; and they ripen their fruit earlier by a fortnight or three weeks.

76. There is another very great advantage in this mode of planting. I have observed before that it enables you to put the work of planting off, for a fortnight or three weeks, while it makes your crop earlier; but, besides this, it enables you to deposite your manure, if that be scarce with you, all just under the place where the plants are to stand. Your ground, supposing the single rows above described, being ploughed into five feet lands, you put the manure along the furrows, turn the lands back again, and then put your plants along the middle of your land, where the drill would have been if you had planted by grain instead of plants; and, though this

may be done in the case of planting by grain, it cannot be done so conveniently. Some of the dung would be brought up by the driller or by the hoe; and, at any rate, the ground would not have been so lately moved, and would not have been so ready to give nourishment to the plant.

77. In stiff land, in particular, this mode of planting might be desirable, such land is difficult to get into *fine* tilth by the latter end of April. Opportunities enough generally offer to do it before the first of June; an additional ploughing is of great advantage to it; and, by transplanting, all the labour of rolling and harrowing is completely saved. These are very great advantages; very strong reasons on the side of transplanting. In this case, too, a hand-hoeing is saved, and you avoid completely all injury from slugs, from birds, and from hurt that the seed may receive under the ground.

78. The act of transplanting should be carefully performed by a man who knows how to use a dibble or *setting-stick*, such as is used for the transplanting of cabbage plants or lettuces, and such a man will, with ease, transplant an acre in a day, if the plants be laid out for him in the manner before directed. But he must not be suffered to do the work in a slovenly or careless manner. He must not make the hole too

large, nor too deep, and must take care to *fix* the *root* well in the ground, filling up the hole that the stick has made, so that the earth lie smoothly about the bottom of the stem of the plant, which will not be infested by weeds, as the young plants which are raised upon the spot by grain will be, because, here, there will be plants and not seeds following closely upon the heels of the plough.

79. When the plants are taken out of the bed, they should be heaved up with a spade, with as little tearing of the roots as possible, and the dirt should not be *shaken* off. They should be laid into a shallow wicker basket, such as the gardeners make use of, and thus carried and laid down for the planter; and the distributor of the plants should not be far a-head of the planter, especially in the case of hot suns or sharp winds. If some of your ground be ready for planting a considerable time before the rest; or if any circumstance cause the work of planting to be long in hand, begin by taking up every other row of plants in the beds, or, which is better, every other plant in each row. This will give the remainder room; and they will wait to give you time for your manuring, or your ploughing, if it be necessary.

80. If, by any accident, you be compelled to defer the work of transplanting to a late season,

such as the middle of June, your remaining plants will probably be a foot high or more; but if you follow closely upon the heels of the plough, and keep the roots as little as possible exposed to the sun and wind, you need not even then doubt of success in good land, or with a sufficiency of manure under the plants. At all events, a rod or two of plants ought to be raised in beds, in the manner above described, for the purpose of filling up *gaps* that may be found, in spite of every precaution, in a field which has been planted with grain; for, in order to have the largest crop that can possibly be raised, effectual means must be used to prevent any deficiency in the number of plants.

81. I have thus described the several modes of planting corn. I am convinced, that that of planting with plants, and not with seeds, is the best and the cheapest; but then every part of the work must be well attended to. Whether you plant in hills or in rows, you may transplant with equal propriety; there is no difference but this, that you cannot deposit the manure just under the hills, as you can just under the rows; but, in both cases, there is the great advantage of *time*. You may with safety transplant stout plants until the middle of June. I did it myself, in the year 1827, and the corn ripened perfectly well; but if you keep the plants till they be

stout, they must have good room in the beds, or they will be too weak to withstand the power of the sun; and in proportion as the plants be large, you must be careful in keeping their roots from the sun and the wind.

CHAPTER VI.

On the Summer Cultivation of Corn.

82. YOUR first attention, as soon as the corn begins to make its appearance, is to be directed towards the birds and the slugs. I have before spoken of the trees which harbour the former, and of the hedges which harbour both. These are to be avoided round a corn field as much as possible; but, at any rate, the birds and the slugs must be kept off. Birds come by day-light, and are extremely susceptible in the affair of powder, which is the only effectual remedy. Shoy-hoys, though equal in the field to BURDETT and others in a place which it would be, in a rustic work, inapplicable to name, exercise their influence but for a very short space of time. The birds, full as quick-sighted as Boroughmongers, or the agents of Boroughmongers, quickly perceive that their guardianship of the treasures of the farmer is a mere *sham;* and, like the sparrows in my neighbour's garden at BOTLEY, they will, in a short time, make the top of the hat of a shoy-hoy a table whereon to enjoy the repast which they have purloined. Strings and feathers, and flying

rags are of equally transitory influence. Powder is the only thing of which they continue to be, for any length of time, seriously afraid.

83. Every part of the corn, from the time of its germination, till it becomes flower; blades, blossoms, stalks, have great sweetness in them. We know that fowls of all sorts eat grass with as much avidity as pigs or sheep do. All birds do the same; and it is well known that rooks frequently do great injury to wheat fields by pecking off the spears soon after they come out of the ground. These and other birds do the same, to a certain extent, in all wheat fields, and in fields of other grain. But, generally speaking, they here do little injury, because there is always such a superabundance of plants. It is not thus in a corn field where there is not a plant too many; and, therefore, the birds must be kept off, and effectually kept off, until the plants be three or four inches high, and have lost a part of that sweetness which is contained in the young spear, proceeding, as this latter does, immediately from the seed.

84. Rooks, partridges, pheasants, crows, magpies, jays, blackbirds, thrushes, larks, and several other birds, but particularly the numerous and impudent sparrows, not forgetting the pigeons, and their first cousins, the *innocent doves*, which last are the most mischievous and most cunning of

all, seem equally fond of the spear of the corn; a thing which I was wholly unaware of, until they had done me great mischief, which it was by no means in my power to repair. An innocent dove will come peeping round the field; and after having settled, in the most modest manner, amongst the thickest branches of a tree or a bush, as if to disguise from the admiring farmer her spangled dress and the white ruff round her neck and her pretty blue and love-inspiring eyes, will, the moment his back is turned, slip down upon the ground, get upon a row of corn, and trip along like a Circassian, from spear to spear, till she has got twenty or thirty in her craw. These are *done* for; for, though they will shoot up again, they will be feeble, backward, and, in short, the crop is almost wholly destroyed; for the lady-dove does not devour the top of the spear, but, regulated by the maxim, that the nearer the bone the sweeter the meat, she plucks it off as nearly to the ground as possible, or a little way into the ground, swallows the bottom, and rejects the top. The mortification which these wretched creatures gave me last spring made me a hundred times think of the Scripture, and say, that, if I must have one of the two, give me the cunning serpent in preference to the *harmless* dove; for any thing so mischievous as these, of the feathered race, I know nothing of.

85. The rook always keeps above board, and his colour causes him to be seen from afar. Rooks move in battalions, too; but these melancholy doves are like private stealers, that depend upon their powers of deception. They are as silent, as nimble, and as demure, as she pick-pockets. All the others make some noise or other, but the doves make none; and there is no way of matching them, but being continually, during the hours of day-light, in the field with a gun. Larks are very bad; for the fields are their roosting place; but a gun fired off now and then in the field, and in various parts of it, will keep the whole of the feathered race away. I did not discover this until it was too late to prevent great mischief; and if I had not discovered it at all, I verily believe I should have lost nine-tenths of the crop. When I did discover it, I had a man constantly in the field with a gun, firing off powder now and then, and the depredations instantly ceased. But, observe, the gun must be heard in the field, not only as soon as it is light, but a little while before it is light, or the guardianship is totally useless; for birds go to bed before it is dark, and they move from their roost at the very first glimmering of light. This, however, is no very great thing to do, seeing that the danger lasts for only about a fortnight, for by that time the plants become no

delicacy to the birds. Most farmers have a son who would rather be shooting a gun off all the day, than be at plough or harrow; and, even if it be necessary to hire a man for the purpose, the cost is not very great.

86. But these day-light enemies of the corn are much less difficult to deal with than those which come by night. Mice do not eat the spears of the corn, and it is very rarely they can find out the seed until it be got into a state that unfits it for their liking. But the slugs are night enemies; and if they abound, they will do a great deal of mischief, not only near the hedges, but in the middle of the fields, if the ground be rough, and have not recently been thoroughly broken; and especially if it have been weedy during the preceding summer. These are terrible enemies, and it is necessary to provide against them by the previous tillage of the land; but you cannot get them out of the hedges and the hedge-rows, whence they will sally forth in moist or wet weather, and in nights when the dews are heavy. They will sometimes destroy, in great part, a field of wheat. I once saw a field suffering under their attacks in Berkshire. The farmer had laid cabbage leaves about the field as traps for them. The slugs would, soon after day-light, crawl under the leaves; and then the leaves were taken up, and the slugs killed. This remedy

could, however, be but very partial. Only a few of the slugs would go under the leaves, and the rest would proceed with their work of destruction. The only effectual remedy for slugs is *hot lime*. The lime should be *very fine*. Put some into a bag, much larger than necessary to hold the quantity. Put, for instance, a gallon into a bag that will hold four gallons; and let the bag be of the same stuff that common sacks are made of. Go round the field, and, at a yard distance from where the grass of the hedge begins, and, as you walk along, give, at every third step, the bag *a shake* or two. You may keep walking on at a good pace. The ground will *all* receive some of the fine dust of the lime; of course the slugs will have their share, and the smallest touch of it will kill any slug. But if none should happen to fall on him, he will lick some up at his next move; and that is equally destructive to him.

87. But, observe, this must be done *after dark* and before *day-light;* or, just after *a rain:* for then the slugs will sally out in the day-time. And, observe, too, that this must be repeated several times; for slugs do not all come forth in the same night. Observe, further, that the lime loses its power, after it has had *rain fall upon it*, or after a *heavy dew*. So that you ought to count on its power for only once; and, therefore, it will be necessary to go round the outsides of

the field about ten nights running, just after the corn begins to appear above ground.

88. If slugs infest the *middle of the field*, to kill them will require a little more trouble; but it is easily done. Go along each row of corn, and shake the bag over the row at every third step, or thereabouts. As it would be difficult to do this in the dark, it may suffice to do it a little before sun-set; or, very early in the morning. This remedy is effectual, and is neither troublesome nor costly; and slugs, if abundant, and if let alone, make great havoc, and in quick time; witness the transplanted lettuce-beds of careless gardeners. It is useless to fling *coarse* lime about. The lime must be very fine, fine as the finest flour. It then touches *all* the ground; and is certain destruction to slugs, and to snails also, if it light on them when they are out of their shells.

89. But there are other *night-foes* far more destructive than slugs; and these are, in most cases, *protected by the law:* I mean *hares* and *rabbits!* Yet, if you have these to any extent, and dare not kill them, you must not think of planting corn. One hare will nip off a whole row, in one night, forty or fifty rods long. In many parts these animals do great injury to all the straw-crops; what, then, must they do to corn! If there be but *few* of them, you may, by good

fences, stopping of *muses* (holes in hedges that they pass through), bushing the gates well, beating the hedges and hedge-rows round the field, and round the neighbouring fields, by day, and, in addition, hunting the field with a spaniel, or poacher's dog, in the night, keep these worst of enemies off; but if you have the misfortune to be cursed with them in great numbers, and *dare* not destroy or annoy them, you cannot have my Corn, and the owner of the land must be content with such rent as a tenant thus deprived will be able to pay him. Pheasants and partidges may be easily kept off until the corn be out of danger; for they do not work by night, and they smell powder as far as a rook or a magpie; but the four-legged plagues come by night; and though the report of a gun *might* alarm them, even in the night, if near to them, they are far too cunning not to know that sportsmen cannot see far in the dark. The law, therefore, which forbids, in certain cases, the killing of these animals, will, whenever they abound, forbid, in fact, the growing of corn.

90. The corn having been protected against birds and slugs, until it be about *three inches high*, is quite safe from them for the remainder of its career. Not so, however, from *hares* and *rabbits:* they will continue to feed on it until it be a foot high. But, leaving them aside, as an

insuperable obstacle to the cultivation, let us now suppose the corn plants to be *three inches high.* Long before this, *weeds* will begin to appear; for they were in the ground long before the corn, and they claim their right of primogeniture, and act upon that right. They will not rise to the same height with the corn plants; but, their inferiority in point of height and bulk will be amply made up for in numbers; and the poor corn plant, if left to itself, will soon be like Gulliver, when bound down by the Lilliputians. These "patriots of the soil," as poor Perry used to call the whig nobility, put forward the same claim in wheat and barley and oat fields; but these have *numbers too;* so that the contest is more equal; yet, even here, the "patriots of the soil" never struggle wholly in vain; and, sometimes, they nearly, if not quite, overcome the upstart "Lower Orders."

91. In the case of corn, these patriots must, however, be put down, and that, too, from their *first appearance;* or, at least, as soon as the corn plants are three inches high; for, the roots of the weeds, small as they may be, do mischief to the corn the moment the weeds show their heads, and even before; seeing that the root goes down before the head rises above ground. Besides this, the mere act of moving the earth just round the young plant does a great deal of good.

92. Therefore, as soon as the plants are of the

height just mentioned, you take a small hoe, with *sharp corners*, and hoe all the ground on both sides of the row of plants, to the distance of six or eight inches, and at a time when the ground is *not wet*. Take care to *move all the ground* between the plants, and *close up to their stems*. If the corn be in hills, let your hoe go to about a foot from the plants all round, and move the earth, with the corner of the hoe, between the plants; so that all the young weeds be destroyed. If there be *two rows* on the land, the two feet between them must be all hoed. No one, who has not actually seen the effect of this work, can form an idea of its efficacy. Great is its effect upon all young plants; but, in no other case, as far as I have observed, nearly so great as in that of Corn, which testifies to your sight its joy and gratitude in even a few hours after the benefit has been received. If you were to do this work to a field, generally, and to leave one row unhoed, you would, at any distance that would allow you to distinguish one row from another, be able to tell, at the first look, which was the neglected row. A man that could not, or would not, go over two acres a day at this hoeing, would be unfit to go into a field.

93. After this hoeing, which, if you plant in mid-April, will take place early in May, the plants will soon be from six to eight inches high;

will be about a foot and a half, or from that to two feet high. The tassel, or blossom head, which is denoted by *a*, in the plate representing the plant, will, about the middle of July, begin to make its appearance. At the same time, the ears begin to show themselves forming in the socket of the blades on the sides of the stalk. When you see the tassel begin to rise above the sockets of the upper blades, it is a good time to plough again; for by this time rains have, perhaps, battered the ground, and given time for the weeds to make a fresh start. Now, therefore, the second ploughing is to be given, and to be given precisely in the manner before described in case of tillage in rows. If the tillage be in hills, and you have taken care to have your planting true, you may now plough cross ways, though the width be but four feet in the cross direction. If that be not perfectly true, you cannot do this, and must content yourself with a double ploughing of the five feet interval as before. At this ploughing you must not go *quite so close* to the plants as you did before; but if you now leave six inches between the plants and the plough, it will be quite enough, taking care, in case of the single row, to plough by alternate intervals first. Then turn them back, and then plough the others.

102. Let no one be afraid of the consequences

of thus tearing about the roots of the plants when they are at this advanced age and height. It is probable that the ploughing may not be finished before the latter end of July, or the first week of August, but this is no matter; it ought to be done, and well done. Ninety-nine of my readers out of a hundred, and I dare say, nine hundred and ninety-nine out of a thousand, will shudder at the thought of tearing about in this manner; thinking that breaking off, tearing off, cutting off, the roots of such large plants, just as they are coming into bloom, must be a sort of work of destruction. Let them read the book of Mr. TULL; or let them go and see my friends the Yankees, who generally drive the thing off to the last moment, especially if they be young enough to have a "frolic" stand between them and the ploughing of the corn; or if the wife want the horses to go ten or twenty miles to have a gossip with a *neighbour* over a comfortable cup of tea; but they, to do them justice, do not forget the beef steaks, or the barbecued fowls, on these occasions; that is to say, a fowl caught up in the yard, scalded in a minute, cleaned the next, and splitted down the back, and clapped upon the *gridiron* (favourite implement of mine), and then upon the table, along with the hot cakes, the preserved peaches, and the comfortable cup of tea. If a wife want the horses for this purpose,

or for any other, and should continue too long a time in a visiting or frolicking humour, the poor corn gives signs of the consequence, by becoming yellow, and sharp-pointed at the blade. By-and-bye, however, the Yankee comes with his plough; and it would frighten an English farmer out of his senses to see how he goes on, swearing at the horses, and tearing about the ground, and tumbling it up against the plants; but, at any rate, moving it all pretty deeply, somehow or other. I have seen them do this when the tassel was nearly at its full height, and when the silk was appearing from the ears. One rule is invariable; that is, that if the corn be not ploughed at all there will be no crop; there will be tassel, and the semblance of ears; but (upon ordinary land, at least), there will be no crop at all.

103. If the reader will neither go to America nor read the book of Mr. TULL, which latter is quite sufficient for any rational person, he may take a spade; and, I hope that it is not necessary to tell him that this is an iron instrument, about nine inches long and seven inches wide, with a sharp edge at the bottom, and a socket at the top to receive a handle about two feet and a half long, at the top of which there is an eye, for the greater convenience of handling; he may take a spade, and go to two rows of cabbages forming part of a plat of that vegetable, and, holding the

spade in a sloping direction, and driving it down with his foot, as far he can drive it, pressing down the eye with one hand and applying the other hand to the handle, lift up all the earth, spit after spit, between these two rows, putting the top of the earth into the place where the bottom was before. Let him (though this is a fine recipe for the gout) now lay by the spade, and take another instrument, called a *hoe*, which he may use without inconvenience to his back, and just scrape over the ground, and kill the aspiring weeds over the rest of the plat. Let him look at the whole plat in a week from that time; and, though these two rows have had but half tillage, the greatness of their progress, compared with that of the rest, he will find to be surprising.

104. In 1817, in LONG ISLAND, I had nothing but a garden wherein to plant corn, or rather a piece of ground which had once been a garden. My neighbour ploughed it up for me with his oxen; and I planted in it five square rods with corn. Want of room made me put the hills at three feet apart; but still my corn was very fine. There could be no ploughing of such a little piece, and the second digging was put off until a very late season. The tassel was got up a good height, and the silk was just ready to appear. But the weather was so tremendously hot, and our bodies were so much like bits of leather,

that the digging was put off, from time to time, in order to get a cool day, until it could be put off no longer. There were five of us, and every one seemed to have still less relish for the job than every other. At last the job fell to the lot of me and a young Frenchman, who had come from ST. HELENA, and had gone over to AMERICA in the same ship with us. There were but five rods of ground, but we drove off the job till after breakfast. Finally, at it we went. As it happened, we chose pretty nearly the hottest day in the year. However, I was resolved to do my part; and he, from that feeling of politeness for which his nation is so famed, could not think of going in while MONSIEUR COBBÉ remained broiling in the sun. In short, we finished the job; we dug all the ground deep, and we hilled up the corn besides. I was very far from having what may be called a dry shirt, and neither of us had either stockings or neckcloths of any kind; but his shirt was the wettest I ever saw upon a human body; just as wet as if it had been taken out of water, and immediately put upon his back. I thought to myself, and I told one of my sons in the evening, that I had put the TULLIAN SYSTEM to a very severe test that day; for, you will observe, we dug close round all the hills, leaving no part of the ground unmoved, except the little circles on which the plants were actually stand-

ing. Next day, about noon, I went to look at the corn, and found the blades *closing up*, as if beginning to wither. I began to be afraid. It got, however, less and less withered every day, till it resumed its full splendour as before; it completely recovered the drooping in a very short time, and the crop was so much greater than I ever had seen before in my life, in proportion to the size of the piece, that a very good neighbour of mine several times expressed his regret that it was not suffered to ripen, that we might have taken an account of its produce; but I wanted the corn to eat green, in the manner to be described by-and-bye, and, therefore, it was not preserved until it was ripe.

105. I give this as an instance of what plants will bear in the way of inter-cultivation. We tore to pieces, or cut off, all the lateral roots of these corn plants. But the remaining parts of these roots, for the reasons mentioned by Mr. TULL, became greater feeders than the whole of the roots had been before. If you cut off a root of any herbaceous plant in the summer time, it is like cutting off the shoot of a tree; several roots come out immediately, instead of the one there was before: these bring fresh supplies of food, and the plant flourishes and produces accordingly. Yet I do not recommend such adventurous work to be performed in an English

corn field. Having gone as closely to the roots as possible, at the first ploughing, I recommend to keep at six inches from them in the second ploughing; and this is quite enough.

106. After this last double ploughing is completed, the *earthing up* takes place; which is performed by a large hoe, drawing, from the middle of the interval earth sufficient to hill up the stalks of the plants to the heighth of six or seven inches above the level of the ground where they stand. But, before you perform this earthing up, you must *sucker* the plants; and, this is a matter which requires a full explanation.

107. Each plant will send out from the bottom of the stalk, just where it meets the ground, one, two, three, four or more *suckers*. These must be taken off by pressing the bottom ends of them *downwards*, so as to leave to each plant nothing but a single stalk. The *suckers*, if strong, will bear ears themselves sometimes, and, indeed, generally, if not always, if the plants be strong; but, in the first place, those who have cultivated corn for a century and a half, always take off the suckers. In the next place, the ears which come upon these suckers are almost always very small; are necessarily *more backward* than the ears of the main stalk; cause the crop to ripen unequally; and necessarily deduct from the size and goodness of the ears upon the main

stalk. I did not sucker my corn this year, of which I saw the consequences when I came to gather in and husk the crop. I have had, indeed, a single plant with eleven ears upon it, those of the suckers and all taken together; but while this, or any thing like it, has been very rare, I am certain, that the ears upon the main stalks would have been much larger and longer if the corn had been suckered. I have one plant which has been preserved entire, which has now six good ears upon it, and the seventh was broken off by some accident; but this plant happened, from some cause or another, to have no suckers at all. I therefore recommend the corn to be suckered; and the suckers to be taken *clean off* out of their sockets, as soon as they get to be two, three, or four inches long; and this is the length they will attain between the first and second ploughings.

108. The suckers, if the operation be performed in due time, will amount to a very little in point of bulk; but, still, they will pay for the labour, for they are excellent food for hogs or cows, though care must be taken not to give the cows too great a quantity of them at first, as they are apt to *blow* cattle until after they have digested the first meal of them, in the same manner as are lucerne, young clover and several other things. The suckering should be performed by

will cheerfully assist in this way, who would sneak a mile in another direction rather than be squatted down singly, or even in company, to husking corn if you were called to work. Labour is pain; and nobody likes pain; and this is sufficient to say upon the subject. So well is this philosophy understood in AMERICA, that there they give the name of *frolic* to a great many things, which we call work: the putting together of the frame of a roof of a house or barn, they call a *raising frolic*. Wherever a considerable number of persons are wanted to be working together at the same thing, they call the affair a frolic. The getting together of stones or rocks, as they call them, to make the foundation of a barn or a house, they call a *rock frolic*; and you will sometimes see forty or fifty wagons and pairs of oxen or horses coming from all parts of the neighbourhood, each bringing a load of stones or rocks. This is, I may say, always done, in case of a house building for a new-married couple, especially if they be poor. Some bring rocks, some lime, some sand, others boards, others timbers, others shingles and laths, while others are at work digging out the foundation, building the walls, preparing the frame; and, in short, here is a house built in a twinkling, and the owner of it, very frequently, has it, without the cost to himself of any thing

but of the iron work. When I moved my things from Long Island down to a house and piece of land near NEW YORK, just before I came away, there were ten neighbours, some with one and some with two wagons, to do the job for me. If there be any thing more amiable than this; any thing that bespeaks a better people, I should be glad that some one would describe it. But it is the ease in which the people live that is the great cause of this neighbourly conduct; the exactions of the government are so trifling, the graspings of the miser and the usurer so small comparatively; there are so few idlers to live upon the fruits of the labour of the industrious, that, with very few exceptions, every one has something more than he wants; and to keep a people in this state is the first duty of every government; its very first duty; and it ought to be the first aim of every statesman, who never ought to close his eyes in quiet with the knowledge of the fact, that a considerable part of the people are in want.

179. If some one, some precious monopolizer, some favoured child of cent. per cent. with his pen behind his ear and his book of interest tables before him, should, rising up from his calculation exclaim, "What a devil and all of money COBBETT will get by this corn!" some reader of the Register, who has a memory capable of a test of twenty-

eight years, and who has gratitude that will not quit his bosom while he has breath in his body, might, in answer to the grinding caitiff, say, "*And* "*why should not* Cobbett get a devil and all of "money by his corn? He asks no remuneration "out of the taxes, no villanous profits upon a loan; "he goes not to the law to protect him in plunder- "ing; he resorts not to the more than half frauds "committed under the name of paper-money and "discounts; he seeks not to gain by any means "not at once fair, free from all oppression of any "body, and free from all those arts of delusion in "which the foolish and credulous become the vic- "tims of cunning knaves."

180. To this might be added, that when Mr. TOLLET, at BETTLEY, near Newcastle-under-Line, in Staffordshire, introduced the WINTER BEAN, he sold his first crop at two shillings the quart. It requires three bushels of these beans to plant an acre; so that Mr. TOLLET sold his seed, at *nine pounds twelve shillings* for seed sufficient to plant an acre. Mr. TOLLET was and is a magistrate of the county, a considerable landowner, and one who must necessarily profit largely from every means made use of to add to the general produce of the soil. It is hardly necessary for me to say, that, while I by no means envy Mr. TOLLET, or deem him to have made unjustifiable profit, I have full as great a right, moral as well as legal,

to derive profit from being the inventor or introducer of something, *an infinite number of millions of times* better than any *bean* that ever was grown; because beans are good for nothing but for horses; and because, unless the nation should be smitten with universal insanity, they never will be used for horses again after about five years from this day, of which you will be convinced when you have read my book.

181. Next year an acre of corn-seed will, I dare say, be to be bought for a few shillings; but, even according to my price, this first year, when every grain is so precious, pray make the comparison between corn and wheat! To sow an acre of wheat broadcast (and that is the general way), I must have from *three to four bushels;* some sow one of these quantities, some the other. I have heard of more than four, but of never less than three. Let us take the average, three and a half; good *seed* wheat is not now to be got under fourteen shillings a bushel, at the least; here, then, are *forty nine shillings* required to sow an acre of wheat, when the acre of corn, even according to my price, costs, in seed, only *thirty two shillings.*

182. Such answer might suffice; but, such in this case is not enough for me. I, not only seek not to make money by watching the turn of the market; but I seek not to make it even by inge-

nuity and doing things of real utility, to the exclusion of the gain of others. I would scorn, if I had the power, to confine the advantage to myself. I leave the PEELS, the ARKWRIGHTS, the WATTS, and the rest of that lucky tribe, to monopolise the profits of their discoveries. I leave to DOCTOR JENNER, to the Scotchman MACADAM, and the like, not forgetting the "codification" BENTHAM, who was the discoverer of a new mode of punishing harlots and thieves; I leave these to get *parliamentary grants*; I leave these to have their surprising genius and industry rewarded by a Parliament such as that which we have to take care of our money; and, rather than receive one farthing from that Parliament, or from any ministry, be they who they might, I would be smothered in the husks of my own beloved corn. Never did these hands of mine touch, directly or indirectly, one single farthing of the millions taken from the people, whether under the name of taxes, or any other name, except the sixpence first, and afterwards the two shillings, a-day that I received during the time that I wore a red coat, and from which red-coat service I obtained my discharge as a great favour, and on the express ground, as inserted in the discharge itself by the command of my then commander Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who signed my discharge; on the express ground that my wishes were gratified in consequence of

"the *great services* that I had rendered the regiment," and that was at the age of twenty-six years. The GOVERNOR of the province gave me, when I came away, or, rather, when the regiment came away, his thanks in *public orders;* though he did the same to not one soul of the officers of the regiment. I was so situated as to save to England thousands and thousands of pounds during the time that the regiment was stationed in NEW BRUNSWICK. My vigilance was incessant; and I pursued the interests of the government at home, and, as I then thought, of the country at home, with as much zeal as if my life had depended upon the result. I could take my oath that I never saw one other man that did the same, while I was in that country, with the exception of GENERAL CARLETON, the Governor, and the unfortunate LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD, who was a really honest, conscientious, and humane man.

183. While I was in that province, a set of *Commissioners* came out to take an account of the population, of the condition of the several settlements, of the state of the improvements, and the like. These gentlemen sent home a very long and luminous report, accompanied with a set of tables, giving a concise view of the whole in figures. They ended their perambulations at FREDERICTON, where my regiment was quar-

tered; and they wanted somebody to assist them in making out their report. Having dropped this in the hearing of our adjutant, who (I being serjeant-major) was my immediate superior, he undertook at once to do the job for them. After suitable apologies and thanks, I suppose, they accepted of his offer, and he, coming to me with a great confused bundle of their papers, borne behind him by a soldier, said: "COBBETT, here "are these commissioners want somebody to "make out their report for them; I wish you "would do it." I began to ask him how it was to be done: "Oh; G—d d—n me if I know, "and I am sure they don't; but, there, look at "papers, and come to me by-and-bye." When I think of the job which he imposed upon me, and how very small part of a minute it would *now* require to make me fling the papers out of the window, or into the fire, and kick the applicant out of the door, I am astonished that I had the patience to wade through, to arrange, to read, to analyse, and to obtain explanations relative to, this heap of abominable rubbish. I did it not only without reluctance but with delight, and it cost me about thirty nights; for I had full employment from the beating of the *reveillé* to that of the *tat-too*. Very little sleep had I during that time; but, I made out the report and the tables. They were sent home to the employers

of these commissioners; and a copy, which I made for the purpose, was deposited with the Governor of Halifax, which copy the DUKE of KENT had, in the year 1800, when he was Commander in Chief in that Province, got from the Governor as a curiosity to keep, on account of the beauty of the writing and of the figures, having hired a person to take a copy of it to leave with the Governor. Another motive was, because it was in my hand-writing. He showed it to me at HALIFAX, when I was there, on my way from the UNITED STATES to England in the year 1800. When I told him the whole of the story, he asked me *how much the Commissioners gave me*; and, when I told him not a farthing, he exclaimed most bitterly, and said that thousands of pounds had, first and last, been paid by the country for what I had done.

184. I mention this as only one instance among many. I, with nobody but the soldiers of the regiment under me, and furnished with nothing but tools and iron work, built a barrack, dug the stones, burnt the lime, dug the sand, or, rather, wheeled it up from the river; built the chimneys, cut the trees, sawed the boards and timber, split the shingles, made the sashes for the windows; and with nothing given me but the iron work and the glass for the windows, with these exceptions, we had nothing but the earth to look

to for materials; and we built in two months a very comfortable barrack for four hundred men, without any architect; without any Mr. NASH, or any body of that description. All the officers, except one, went down to the city of St. JOHN, at more than a distance of a hundred miles, and there they stayed. That one was stationed along with me, in consequence of a loadstone, that pulled him higher up the river; but never did I see his face, but once or twice, during the whole time. The Governor, who was a very early riser, used to come and see me every morning; and, as far as words went, gave me ample reward in his constant commendations. This sixpence a-day, and afterwards the two shillings a-day; that is to say, sixpence a-day for two years, and two shillings a-day for six years; make a total of two hundred and thirty-seven pounds five shillings. This is all I ever received out of the taxes; and I am quite willing to allow that my *services* were worth nothing to the country, for that such services are of no real use to it; and, as soon as I found that out, which was very quickly, I begged and prayed that I might cease those services. But, I have PAID something to the country, as well as received something from it; I do not mean those enormous taxes that I have paid in common with the rest of my countrymen; but,

I mean a sum which I have actually PAID to THE KING; and the like of which, upon such ground no Englishman ever paid before; and I am satisfied that no Englishman will ever pay again. I allude, as my readers must have anticipated, to the thousand of hard pounds, which I paid in the year 1812, under the name of a fine, after two years of monstrous expenses and of imprisonment, for that length of time, in a felon's jail. This money I have demanded back through the hands of the present ministry; I will demand it again and again as long as I have life; and I never will, while that life lasts, be satisfied until I have obtained it. Since the present ministry has been in power, I have petitioned the King to give me back my money; and that those who are too young to have witnessed the transaction, or to have had such a knowledge of it as to be enabled to remember it, shall upon this occasion hear the whole story, that they may be able to form a judgment upon it. They shall hear it, too, in a copy of that petition itself, which I have recently presented to the King, through the hands of the Secretary of State.

185. *To His Most Gracious Majesty*, GEORGE *the Fourth, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.*

The Petition of WILLIAM COBBETT, of Kensington, in the County of Middlesex,

Most humbly shows,

186. That there was published in London, in the year 1809, a newspaper called the "Courier," which newspaper continues to be there published unto this day; that, in this said newspaper was published, on Saturday, the twenty-fourth day of June, 1809, a piece of news, or intelligence, in the following words; to wit;

"The mutiny amongst the *Local Militia*, which broke "out at Ely, was fortunately suppressed, on Wed- "nesday, by the arrival of *four squadrons* of the "German Legion Cavalry from Bury, under the "command of General Auckland. Five of the "ringleaders were tried by a Court Martial, and "sentenced to receive *five hundred lashes* "*each*, part of which punishment they received "on Wednesday, and a part was remitted. A "*stoppage for their knapsacks* was the ground "of complaint that excited this mutinous spirit, "which occasioned the men to surround their "officers, and demand what *they deemed* their

" *arrears.* The first division of the German " Legion halted yesterday at Newmarket, on " their return to Bury."

187. That your humble Petitioner published, at the time here referred to, a work called the " Weekly Political Register;" that, on the first day of July, 1809, he inserted in the said work the above paragraph from the Courier, and, that he, at the same time, subjoined words of his own, expressive of great indignation at the transaction; but, words, conveying no sentiment which he did not then think, and which he does not now think, it became an Englishman to entertain and express on such an occasion; and, your humble Petitioner is fully convinced, that if YOUR MAJESTY were to be graciously pleased now to read those words, taking all the circumstances into your consideration; who the punished parties were, that they were poor men whom a novel law had forced to quit their homes, and to submit to military service; that the law had awarded a sum of money called the " marching guinea;" but knapsacks had been given, or tendered to them instead of the money; that, though, perhaps, this might be for their own ultimate convenience and good; yet that, even if their claim had not been strictly legal, their youth and inexperience ought, your Petitioner is sure your Majesty would allow, to have pleaded successfully in excuse for their conduct, and ought (especially as they have been compelled to assume the military garb), to have saved them from

suffering punishment, severe in itself, and deemed infamous by the law of the land. Your humble Petitioner is fully convinced that, if your Majesty were now to read those words, taking into consideration all these circumstances, your Majesty would see in them nothing that ought not to have proceeded from the heart or the pen of an Englishman; and, that your Majesty would be able to discover in these words nothing that ought to be deemed seditious or libellous.

188. That, however, for having written and caused to be published these words, your humble Petitioner was prosecuted by an *ex officio* information; that he was harassed with this prosecution for nearly a year; that he was then brought to trial; and that he was then sentenced, first, to be imprisoned for two years in the jail of Newgate; second, to pay a thousand pounds sterling at the end of the two years; and, third, to be held in bonds of three thousand pounds himself, with two sureties in a thousand pounds each, to the end of seven years after the expiration of the two years of imprisonment.

189. That, after the verdict had been given against your Petitioner, he had just had time to return to his alarmed family at seventy miles distance from London, when he was brought back by a judge's warrant to *give bail for his appearance to receive his sentence*; that, having appeared on the first day of term according to the command of the warrant, he was at once com-

mitted to jail, and kept there until finally brought to receive his horrible sentence; and that (a thing theretofore wholly unheard of) his then printer, THOMAS HANSARD; his then publisher, RICHARD BAGSHAW; and even a bookseller named JOHN BUDD, were all, for the self-same cause, prosecuted in like manner, and all punished by imprisonment; so that, all persons pursuing the business of printing, or that of publishing, became terrified at the thought of printing or publishing the writings of your humble Petitioner, who had to endure many and great disadvantages arising from this terror, which caused an augmentation in the expense of putting forth his literary labours, and other grievous injuries which he will not here enumerate.

190. That, your Petitioner, who had long lived in the country at the time, and who had a wife, and a family of six small children, was put into a part of the jail allotted to *felons* and to persons convicted of *unnatural crimes*; that, on the day after the imprisonment of your Petitioner commenced, one of the former was taken out to be transported; and, that, in a few days later, several of the latter were taken out to be placed in the pillory, and then brought back again to endure imprisonment in the same place that had been allotted to your Petitioner, but imprisonment, he beseeches your Majesty to be pleased to observe, *of much shorter duration!*

191. That your humble Petitioner, in order to avoid society like this, and to be able to avail himself

of the consolation afforded by occasionally seeing his virtuous family, obtained, through the intercession of Gentlemen belonging to the Corporation of London, leave to reside in the house of the Keeper, to whom he paid for this indulgence, twelve pounds for every week; amounting, in two years, to *one thousand two hundred and forty-eight pounds.*

192. That, with any detail of the numerous other expenses, losses, injuries, and mischiefs of endless variety, attending these two years of imprisonment, and the other parts of the merciless sentence, your humble Petitioner will not presume to trouble your Majesty; but will conclude with, first, expressing his gratitude to God for having preserved him and his family, amidst all these terrible sufferings; and, next, with appealing to the justice of your Majesty, whom he humbly begs leave to remind, that, at the end of these two years of pain and of ruin, he paid into the hands of an officer of the crown, a *thousand pounds sterling*, for the use of your Majesty, whom he now humbly prays to be graciously pleased to cause the said thousand pounds sterling to be restored to him, your Majesty's humble Petitioner and faithful and dutiful subject,

W. COBBETT.

Kensington, 25th August,
1828.

193. Such was the statement of my case, which I forwarded in the usual way to the Secre-

tary of State, accompanied with a letter, a copy of which I here insert together with a copy of his answer, acquainting me with what the King had been pleased to do upon the subject.

Kensington, 23d August, 1828.

SIR,

194. Having understood that it is not practicable to petition the King, except through the hands of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, I send you, enclosed, a Petition, which I request you to lay before his Majesty; and, I further request that you will be pleased to inform me, either by my son (who is the bearer of this letter), or by some other means most convenient to you, whether you think it proper to lay the Petition before the King, and at, or about, what time it will be done.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble and

Most obedient Servant,

WM. COBBETT.

To the Right Honourable Robert Peel.

Brighton, August 30th, 1828.

SIR,

195. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 25th of August, and of a Petition to the King, praying for the restoration of the sum of

One Thousand Pounds, being the amount of a fine imposed upon you by the sentence of a Court of Law, in the year 1810. I have laid your Petition before His Majesty, and have to acquaint you, that it has been returned by His Majesty, without the signification of any commands.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT PEEL.

William Cobbett, Esq.

196. This was, to be sure, what I expected; but, it was right to make the demand, and to make it in the manner in which it was made. If I had had the money given back directly, it would have produced no change either in my opinions relative to any of the parties, or in my language in speaking of them and their measures. I look upon the money as my due: I say nothing about compensation for sufferings, for losses, for ruin; for, if I were to speak of this, I should include the consequences of the exile to America in 1817, occasioned by the power-of-imprisonment-bill, which I always regarded, and which I still regard, as principally intended for me. But the *thousand pounds I paid to the King*; and to the KING I will, on all proper occasions, apply for the money. At any rate, therefore, I owe the

nation nothing; and nothing did I ever, or will I ever, receive from it.

197. Not one man out of a hundred thousand, possessing the talents and all the resources contained in my healthy frame and sound mind; there is not one such man in a hundred thousand, who would not, having the opportunities that I have had, have abandoned his country long ago; left it to its fate, and even, while he was enjoying honour and wealth elsewhere, been glad to hear of its misery and disgrace; and, if occasion offered, employ his talents in the service of its enemies; to justify all which I have received a hundred times more than sufficient provocation. I, on the contrary, have foregone the greatest of pecuniary advantages, and regarded wealth as nothing when put in competition with my duty to my country. While I saw around me, even during my last residence in AMERICA, scores of most "*loyal*" Englishmen, swallowing, without the least remorse, an oath, abjuring their allegiance; I remained firm to mine; and so scrupulous was I upon this point, that I declined being introduced to the then president, Mr. MONRO, when he visited NEW YORK in 1817; and I even declined making one of a party at the house of an excellent neighbour in LONG ISLAND, because the Governor of the State, Mr. CLINTON, was to be of that party. I had a very great respect for

both these gentlemen; both of them were worthy of all the respect that man can entertain for man. I should have deemed it a greater honour to have been introduced to them than to all the Prime Ministers that I have ever known in England; but I was resolved to do nothing that could possibly be construed into a desire on my part to be in favour with those, who, in the due discharge of their duty to their country, must of *necessity* entertain a desire to lessen the power of mine.

198. I had not forgotten, nor have I yet forgotten, nor shall I ever forget or forgive, the treatment which I have received from persons in power in England. But, they are *not England*; they are not *my country*; my country is unhappy, in misery, sinking in character, and it is my duty to endeavour to restore her to her former state; and, in the meanwhile, to do her all the good that I can, consistent with my own preservation and that of my family; but, above all things, it is my duty, possessing as I do, an unusual portion of that sort of knowledge, calculated, if properly applied, to better the lot of the labouring classes; and, possessing also the means of communicating that knowledge extensively; it is my duty, a duty next to that which I owe to my own flesh and blood, to communicate it, and that, too, in a way the most likely to be efficient. The most useful piece of knowledge of this tendency,

that I ever possessed, was that relating to the Corn-plant; but, it was a sort of knowledge which, to make the communication of it *effectual*, required *example* as well as precept, and an example, too, upon an unequivocal scale. A field, and a *large* field, was necessary. I could get no such field without taking *a farm*; a farm at this time must be a terrible loss to me, if at any thing of distance from London; and on the spur of the moment, where was I to get a farm near London? This farm was to be let; I took it; and, thus, the outlay, the risk (if risk there were), and whatever there has been of care and labour, and expending of time, have been encountered from a sense of duty towards the numerous and now unhappy class that perform the labours of the country; and, I repeat, that it was my *duty* to do this, if I had the power to do it without *injury to my family*.

199. And, here let me me offer an observation or two respecting the extent to which a man ought, in such a case, to be restrained by these considerations of *family*. It is every man's duty to provide, if he be able, a *sufficiency* for his family; and that sufficiency is not to be interpreted to mean merely food, raiment, and lodging *sufficient* to feed and to cover and shelter the parties; but, every other thing, in addition, suitable and in due proportion to that state of

life in which the children have been bred up; for, a man has *no right* to gratify his own vanity or pride by dressing up his children in fine clothes, by causing them to be waited on by servants, by causing them to ride in carriages, and, then, when they are grown up, to say to them, "*work for yourselves, as I have done*; *for I have no fortunes to give you.*" He has *no right* to do this: he should not have indulged his vanity or pride by doing that which rendered them unfitted for beginning the world as he began it. Still less is he justifiable, be he in what state of life he may, if he, being able to prevent it, suffer his family to experience actual *want* of any thing necessary to their nourishment and health: for, SAINT PAUL says, "If any *provide* "not for his own, and especially for those of his "own house, he hath denied the faith, and is "*worse than an infidel.*" But, by *providing* for his own, it is by no means meaned, that, when a man earns, or, from whatever source, possesses, more than is sufficient for a *just and suitable provision*, he is not called upon for works of *charity*, or, for *acts of duty towards his country*; that is to say, acts, in the benefits of which his neighbours, his countrymen, and particularly his *poorer* neighbours and countrymen are to share. "*Family*," "*wife and children*," his *duty towards these*, is the standing excuse of every grinding,

grasping, greedy, selfish, unfeeling married knave in every country, who has eternally on his lips, "*charity begins at home*;" an interpretation of the above precept of Saint Paul, which interpretation was certainly found out by the Devil. Ask such a fellow to give to the poor; ask him to go to a public meeting; ask him to sign a petition against any act of tyranny or cruelty; ask him to assist, merely by writing his name, or saying *aye* or *no*, in procuring redress of any grievance, though he himself suffer from it in common with the rest of the people; ask him any of these, and the answer of the creature is: "*I have a wife and family.*" "I have *sixteen children*, Mr. Cobbett," said the late Sir HENRY MILDMAY to me, when I was, in 1807, urging him to make great efforts in Hampshire to oppose the perfidious *Whig Ministry's tools:* "those, then," said I, "Sir, are *sixteen reasons* in addition to all that I have urged, for your making the exertion." Now, this was by no means a man destitute of public spirit or of generosity, and was very much beloved by his tenants and by all the people who lived near him; yet, even *he* could plead wife and family, who, God knows, were in no other danger than such as might possibly arise from their having too much. There was a corporal in our regiment, who, having sacked two or three farm-

houses, or rather, *robbed* them, in the American war, and having kept the proceeds, was the *mess-man* and *grog-seller*, being able to give our "gallant" officers trust. This fellow's goat having three she kids, of which, during her gestation, he had most solemnly promised me one, I, when the goats were fit to take away, claimed the fulfilment of his promise; and, having called him to go with me to make delivery, I, out of three *she* goats (there was a *he* besides) fixed upon the finest: "A dad!" said he, "*that's Tommy's*" (his eldest child about *three years old*). "Well, then," said I, "I'll take *this*." "A dad and a dad!" said he, "*that's poor little Billy's*" (who was in arms), and the dear child will cry his eyes out." "Well, then," said I, "here, give me the little one." "Upon my soul," said he, "*that's Nancy's* (his wife), and, *you know* that *I dare not* give that away!" I did happen to know that; but, I also knew, that she *did dare*, and dared to give Tommy's and Billy's away into the bargain. Accordingly I addressed myself to "Nancy," who was a great deal younger than the mess-man, and much too liberal to adhere very rigidly to the doctrine of charity being confined to *home*. "The great fool!" said she; "go, Serjeant-Major, and *take them all*, if you like;" which I instantly did, keeping the finest, and giving the other two away to a

friend, in the city of Saint John, who wanted some goats, to keep.

200. This fellow's conduct is an epitome of that widely spread selfishness which is practised, not only without blushing, but with boasting, under the pretence of *taking care of wife and family*, which forms the sole defence of thousands upon thousands of monopolisers, extortioners, peculators, userers, and misers; who, observe, are, all this while, only gratifying *their own avaricious disposition*, and who resort to the wife and family, to the petticoat and the cradle, to hide the real truth from the world. When I used to tell the young fellows, in Hampshire, who wanted to get out of paying for "love children," that they were "worse that *infidels*," and they used to answer, that they had done nothing *so very rare*, I used to say, that it was the *not providing* for their *own* which constituted the greatest part of the crime; and here, if they had read the *pension* and *sinecure* list, as I had, they might have triumphantly cited the example of their betters; for, in those lists, there are *whole broods*, mother and children, females as well as males, foisted upon the people for support! These "*higher orders*" do not, I suppose, regard SAINT PAUL as having written *for them*; for they absolutely reverse the precept, and not only do not provide for their own, but make others, and

some little time to get into the best way of doing the thing, none of us having any knowledge of the proportions or of the mode of proceeding in the work, except my wife, who was in Hampshire, when we began our operations. And, here, let me, before I proceed further, do justice to Mr. SAPSFORD, baker, corner of Queen Ann and Wimpole Streets, Marybonne, who, upon seeing, in the newspapers, my accounts of the uses of the corn, set to work to give the thing *a trial*, made bread, sold it, and also sold the flour, and now sells both. But, he laboured under every possible disadvantage; for, his corn (the only corn he could then get) was from *Sicily*, very old, badly ripened, and had many musty grains in it. He has now, I understand, received, or, is about to receive, some corn from Liverpool, shipped at Baltimore. I have seen the sample; and it is of the finest description. Then the public will see a *fair trial*. But, with all his disadvantages, what with pains taken to pick over, or to wash, the corn, he has made admirable bread; and, with a degree of public spirit not over-often to be met with, has made as generally known as he has the power to do without actually expending money for the purpose, the manner of making the bread, not wishing to keep the thing secret for his own exclusive benefit. Requesting Mr. SAPSFORD to ac-

cept of an expression of my share of that public gratitude that is his due, I now proceed to describe the method, in which *we*, in my family, proceed in the making of bread, consisting partly of wheat flour, and partly of that proceeding from corn. I shall suppose, that *one third* corn-flour is to be used, and of course, two-thirds *wheat*. In paragraph 102 of COTTAGE ECONOMY, you will have read the instructions relative to the art of making bread. Let the quantity to be baked be *a bushel of flour;* that is to say, fifty-six pounds. Then there will be, disregarding fractions, thirty-eight pounds of wheat-flour and eighteen pounds of corn-flour. But, you are not at once to mix these together *while dry*. You put the thirty-eight pounds of wheat-flour into the baking-trough; then, you *scald* the corn-flour, by pouring on it, and mixing it up with, *four quarts* of *boiling* water; which, when well stirred, will just *wet* the corn-flour, to every four and a half pounds of which we put, in this stage of the process, *one quart of boiling water;* and this will only *just wet* it in such degree as to leave no part of it quite dry. Having thus *scalded* the corn-flour, you lay it out in little lumps, on something clean, to cool, so that you can handle it freely. Then take it, and *rub it well and finely into the thirty-eight pounds of wheat-flour that you have in your baking-trough*. This being done,

the whole will look like a parcel of dry flour; and you proceed, just as directed in paragraph 102 of Cottage Economy, to set the sponge, to mix the bread, to let it rise, to make the dough, to heat the oven, to set in the bread, and to take it out when baked. There is nothing difficult in the matter; and the consequence is, even better and more wholesome bread, and a great saving of expense. A bushel of *best* wheat-flour will make no more *good* bread than seventy-three pounds; and a bushel of corn-flour *will make more:* it will absorb more water without being too wet, and yields, therefore, pound for pound, more bread. The *finer* the wheat-flour is, the more water it will absorb; but the *very finest* of wheat-flour will not absorb so much water, pound for pound, as corn-flour. At *this time* the difference in the price of the two is, if one gets the corn at MARK LANE, *one-half*; it is that of fifteen shillings and seven shillings and sixpence in a bushel of flour; so that, as I bake about two bushels a week, here is a saving of fifteen shillings a week, which is thirty-nine pounds a year, in the article of bread alone. But what, then, is the saving, if I reckon the wheat-flour that would be used in *puddings* and in *porridge*, more than twice the quantity that is used in bread? The saving altogether is not less than one hundred and thirty pounds a year. To

be sure, mine is a *very large* family, and chiefly consists of stout, hearty, working men, and young men too. Yet many a man has as large a family to feed; and, at any rate, if frugality be an object with the party, he saves in proportion to his consumption. I know well that *half-and-half* corn-flour, with either wheat or rye-flour, is the *right proportion;* it is what they use in Long Island of *rye* and corn-flour. And am I to be told, that the people in England, and especially those who have not enough of any thing at all to eat, will not use the flour of corn! If they cannot get it, they will not; but if they can, they will; and the porridge and the mush and the cakes and the puddings will soon banish the villanous potatoe from the land. If I be asked how the corn-flour is to *obtained*, I say, in the same way that wheat-flour is. *Just now*, indeed, nobody that I know of, sells it, except Mr. SAPSFORD, and he must sell *as a baker*, of course. But it soon will be to be had anywhere. I have ground and dressed my own, for years, in little steel mills, to be had of Mr. PARKE, of Fenchurch-street. But Mr. SAPSFORD has his ground by *millers*; and I have just had a sack very well ground at *the wind-mill on Barnes Common*. So that there is no *conjuration* in it. Ah! only let us get the CORN, and there will be no difficulty in getting the *flour*.

162. BEER.—There is no doubt of corn making excellent *beer*. It is used, in America, in the making of *spirits*; and, a gentleman, who came to see my corn-field, told me that corn was thus used in Van Diemen's Land, and that it made the finest and strongest of beer. I have no doubt upon the subject; and I mean to try it, if I do not find the *law* interpose too many obstacles. If this should be the case, we shall soon bid adieu to our old and justly esteemed and admired friend "*Sir John Barleycorn;*" for here is double amount of crop, pretty nearly double quality, and clean land into the bargain. If this should be the case, what will the reptile of THE FARMER'S JOURNAL then say? Why, the wretch will say nothing; and try to slide unperceived into the general opinion. Barley-land is just the land for corn. As far as food for pigs and poultry goes, the latter *must* supplant the former; and I, for my part, have no doubt of its supplanting it also in the making of beer.

CHAPTER X.

Amount and value of a Corn-crop, compared with those of other crops.

163. I have little more to do, in stating the amount of *my crop of this year*, than to repeat here what I published a few days ago (it is now Nov. 20), relative to the same matter, and which was, in substance, this: With regard to the amount of the crop; it would be quite impossible, without very extraordinary means, to ascertain the amount of the whole of the crop, sooner than about the *middle or end of January;* for, first, about the third part of the crop is yet standing in the field. Last Thursday (13th November), it was much more than half standing in the field; but, on that fine afternoon, we reduced the standing crop to one-third, or thereabouts. Not the smallest harm does it take all this time, but becomes harder and harder. The wet does it no harm; for the moment the rain ceases and the wind comes, however little the latter may be, it is dry again. When I say that we have gathered in two third parts of the crop, I by no means say, that we have husked so much, for we have not

husked a *twentieth* part. The ears, husks and all, are put into the barn, on the *floors* as well as in the *bays*, and they are laid a yard or four feet thick under a large granary to keep them from the wet until they can be husked, from which we have been called off for the purpose of taking up a large crop of mangel-wurzel. So that, it will be impossible to ascertain the whole crop until about the time that I have mentioned, before which, every part of it will, perhaps, have been sold.

164. But, I have ascertained the amount of the crop, as nearly as possible; in doing which I have proceeded thus:—I went into the field, some days ago; into what I deemed the best part of the field, and measured out a piece *precisely a rod square:* I had the ears gathered, carried into my study, and had them husked, and then the grain rubbed off in my presence. The result was, *four gallons* and *three quarts*, Winchester measure, besides the *nubbings*, as the Yankees call them, of which I will say more presently. There being 160 square rods in a statute acre, and there being eight gallons in a bushel, and four quarts in a gallon, the crop, according to this specimen, is NINETY-FIVE BUSHELS TO THE ACRE. The *nubbings* on the rod I reckon to be equal in value to *a pint* of good grain. But, I never took *them* into my original estimate; so that I fall five bushels an acre short of that estimate. When I

say that I took the rod in what I deemed the best part of the field, I do not mean that that part was by any means *singularly* good. About eight acres of the field were pretty much upon a level in point of crop ; and I took no pains to select a *singularly good spot.*

165. If I were to include the *nubbings,* at a pint of good grain to a rod, here would be *two and a half bushels more*; but, though these *nubbings* of my whole field would more than fatten six large hogs, I do not reckon them at any thing. I founded my estimate on an experiment, on a small scale, that I made last year, when, at the same distances, I had *a much larger crop*; and, though I took into my calculation, that, in that experiment, *not a single plant missed*; yet, until I came to the actual gathering, the other day, I found that I had not made sufficient allowance for *gaps.* The fact is, that, when I said *a hundred bushels,* I expected *much more*; but, when I came to a minute examination as to the number of *gaps* (caused by the *birds,* as formerly mentioned), I was not surprised at my miscalculation.

166. However, here, with all the defects (and they were many and great) in the tillage and management, is a most valuable crop. Very *bad* and *stale* samples of corn now sell at Mark-lane for 45*s.* the quarter. So that the head grain of

this crop of mine would be worth, even at this rate, 26*l.* 15*s.* an acre, which, I will venture to say, is more than *three times the value* of the average crop of wheat this same year; not to mention the loads of good fodder: and, not to mention, the fine state in which the crop leaves the land; not to mention, either, that this crop is not six months upon the ground, and that it may follow or be followed by a crop of wheat, without danger to either crop. I claim great merit on account of this undertaking; for, what can be of so much importance, what can deserve so much commendation, as the doing of that, which must of necessity prevent the possibility (except in the case of the judgments of God) of a scarcity of food being known in the country? We know what the price of bread is at this moment; we know what pinchings millions will be compelled to endure during the approaching winter; and every one, who reads this book, must be convinced, that bread instead of being thirteen pence for the four pounds weight, would, if corn had been in general cultivation, have been at about four-pence a four-pound loaf. My crop, supposing it to be eight hundred bushels, for I always allowed that three of the acres out of the eleven were not to be counted, having been almost totally destroyed, and the ground having been planted in the summer with Swedish turnips, and

mangel-wurzel; supposing my crop to be eight hundred bushels of shelled corn, and supposing the corn to yield forty-five pounds of flour per bushel, we know that corn makes more bread and more pudding or more cake, pound for pound, than wheat-flour does; and we know that fifty-six pounds of wheat-flour make seventy-three pounds of bread; and we, therefore, know that these eight acres of mine would, if thus applied, have made upwards of *eleven thousand four-pound loaves*; more than three times the quantity, I say and prove; nay, more than *five* times the quantity, that could this year on an average be made out of the produce of eight acres of wheat; and, even upon the three acres, the mangel-wurzel and the turnips (for there they still are) are a good crop, where I could have had nothing in case of a summer failure of wheat.

167. To compare the *worth* of this crop with that of other crops, we are not to content ourselves with its value in itself; but, are to consider all its great advantages over other crops as to the *time required for its growth*; the security of it against wet harvests; the state in which it may safely find, and that in which it will necessarily leave, the land; and must never omit the circumstance, that it may, and must frequently render a bad crop of wheat, or a bad wheat harvest, of little consequence to the country. Such

would have been the case this very year, if corn had been generally cultivated in England. Nay, such, TO ME, is the case now. I need care little about the high price of wheat; I use very little, comparatively; if I had rye, I would use no wheat in the farm-house; but, as it is, I have corn, and I care little about the price of wheat; and, if the use of corn were now generally known, it would be brought from abroad in such quantities as to lower the price of the loaf from thirteen pence to about seven pence.

168. The wheat crops are frequently injured, and greatly diminished in their amount, by the wire-worm, the slug, or the floods; and wheat fields are, on account of these injuries, often ploughed up, and sowed with barley, or oats, or kept for turnips. Here is so much *bread* lost; but if *corn* came to supply the place of ploughed-up wheat, all would be well again; the quantity of bread would suffer no diminution. Corn is subject to *no smut;* to *no blight;* no *mildew;* and never suffers, as wheat does, from *too much richness* in the ground. Wheat will not stand this excess of richness; it will run all to blade; it will fall down; it must be "*flagged,*" or it will bear no grain. This is never the case with *corn,* which will bear any richness of land.

169. Then, again, the quantity of seed is so small in the case of corn, that it really

does not make from the crop a deduction worthy of notice. We all know, that, to get on an average *twenty-eight bushels* of wheat, we must sow *three bushels*. Now, to get an acre of corn of from *fifty* to a *hundred bushels*, there needs only about *six quarts of seed*. We know, that, after every harvest, the *seed-market* stops, in a great degree, the supply of *bread-wheat*, and that it takes away the very best part of the crop of wheat; and we know, that there is such a fuss about *seed-wheat*, sending miles and miles for it; and, indeed, the pains, though necessary, are endless. In the case of corn, in a good large pair of great-coat pockets a farmer may carry seed for a corn-field home from his neighbour's crib, if he take a fancy to that in preference to his own. No man, after the third or fourth year from this, will ever *buy* seed-corn; such a thing was never heard of in America, and it never will be heard of here.

170. But, if this plant be a valuable acquisition to the higher and middle ranks, what is it to the *labourer!* He *must* and *will* have the great benefit of it. It is out of nature, that he should continue to plant and to eat potatoes; to suppose such a thing possible, would be to suppose him as senseless, as destitute of reason, and even more destitute than the beasts that perish. In short, the thing cannot be; and the introduc-

tion of the plant will, in a few years, make a total revolution in the *relative state of farmer and labourer*; the reasons on which I found this opinion it is not necessary now to state; and, besides, a statement of them would lead me too far from the matter, with which I am about to conclude my book.

CHAPTER XI.

Conclusion; *Addressed to the Readers of the Register.*

171. My friends, this concluding Chapter of a book, which, on account of the importance of the subject of which it treats, is likely to be widely circulated, attentively read, and long preserved, I, from a sense of justice due to you as well as to myself, address to YOU. To the *nation*; or to the *public*, as it is called, I owe not as much as the value of one of the dead silks on one of my corn-ears. I owe them nothing; and, if I had been as vindictive towards them, as many of them have been towards me, I should, when I had made this discovery by experiment, have kept the fact hidden in my own bosom, as an ill-treated and indignant labourer does when he justly and quietly puts his foot upon the nest of the pheasant or of the partridge. To YOU, I owe a great deal; you have been the encouraging companions of my studies; your faithful adherence, amidst all the calumnies you have had to endure, has been a source of great consolation to me; and,

therefore, on this important occasion, I address myself to you.

172. I have, in the first place, to remind you, that the Morning Chronicle, some time ago, published a letter of a person under the name of "CORN PLANTER," who asserted in the most positive manner that my corn would not ripen. I said then that the envious and malignant beast was some tax-eating Scotchman. DOCTOR BLACK did not know, or pretended not to know, who the real author was; but I do not believe DOCTOR BLACK. This very day (21st November) I have *finished my harvest*. Let the base Scotchman split with envy. THE FARMER'S JOURNAL, that advocate for Corn Bills, that pupil of Webb Hall, that lick-spittle of the Landlords, that prosing preceptor of the "*Agriculturists*," that most stupid and malignant of all the shuffle-breeches crew that ever practised farming in a stinking garret of the *wen*; that fungus of the copses, that toadstool of the meadows, that smut in the corn-fields, that *stout* in the back of the cow, that *bott* in the bowels of the horse, that maggot beneath the tail of the sheep; that nasty and despicable thing, hardly fit to be touched with the point of the prong, or to be tossed away by the edge of the shovel, had the impudence, as well as the folly, to curl up its odious-looking nose and to assert, that my corn would not ripen;

and, that if it would ripen, it would be good for next to nothing. This is a pretty *teacher* of the farmers! The wretched thing thought it should flatter them by putting forth an opinion tending to make them believe that nothing could add to, that nothing could make any real beneficial addition to, the crops which they already possessed, and of which they understood so perfectly well the way to go to work always to secure a sufficient abundance. The wretched creature thought that it should flatter them in this way: it might think besides that the thing would not succeed; but, then, if it did think this, and that, too, in opposition to the opinion so positively expressed by me, what a wretched creature it must have been; and what worse than wretched creatures are those, who bestow their time and their money on its miserable productions! They are generally full-pursed and empty-skulled bull-frogs, who, in many cases, are the *correspondents* of the wretch, and who endeavour to impose on their neighbours and their wives, by reading their own productions to them. I mean those of them who are cursed with the *scribbling-itch*; and, amongst these fellows, who never ought to have been out of a smock-frock, this disease is frequently very prevalent. They write "Letters to the Farmer's Journal," but are always advised by their prudent wives to

keep their names out of print. Then, when the letter comes back; with its date and its fanciful signature, how proud they are! The paper is sure to go to market, "*That's a good letter, eant it*, Mr. Jolterhead?" Jolterhead reads it, suspects its source, and then says something in praise of it. "Good peeaper, eant it; do *you* take it in?" The conversation ends with advice to brother Jolterhead to take in the Farmer's Journal; and thus is the circle of stupidity extended.

173. Not to waste our time, however, any longer upon this wretched thing, here we have the indubitable fact of the ripening; and that, too, of the LARGEST CROP of CORN THAT I EVER SAW in MY LIFE. I have read, or heard, of a hundred bushels to the acre in America; but, when I was last in that country, I wrote from LONG ISLAND to an old friend in PENNSYLVANIA, who, and whose father had been farmers, in that State, all their lives long, to tell me what had been his average crop of corn, and what his average crop of wheat. He said of the corn that it was from twenty to thirty bushels; and of wheat, that it was from fourteen to seventeen bushels; and the Winchester bushel prevails, exclusively, all over that country. Another fact, and a very interesting one, concerning the American crop of corn, is the following, taken from

the NEW YORK EVENING POST, of some day in September last, and extracted by the NEW YORK EVENING POST, from a paper called The WINCHESTER HERALD, dated on the 26th of August, 1828. The extract is in the following words:

174. "EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH OF CORN.—It has been generally remarked, that corn in our county the present season promises unusually well; and if there be many instances of the kind we are about to relate, we shall most readily adopt the conclusion. Last week a farmer called upon us to state, that he had, *with some others*, taken *from a single stalk of corn* on the farm of Mr. A. Dickerson, in Bedford, seven ears containing together 2,077 grains of corn! This exceeds all former product of this *valuable article* we have ever known."

175. Now this is a very striking fact. You will recollect that the American corn is planted in hills four feet apart each way; and that they never put more than four or five plants in a hill. Suppose it to be five, which is very seldom the case: then, you will find upon calculation that here are not above fifteen thousand plants upon an acre, whereas, at my distances of this year, rows three feet apart, and the plants eight inches apart in the row, there stand 21,760 plants. Then, in all probability, this single

stalk of Mr. DICKERSON had been, as is frequently the case, the only plant left in the hill. So that, this plant had all the nourishment destined for the use of the *five*. Well then, this *extraordinary* growth of corn may enable us to judge, when it is compared with my growth, of the relative crop, that is to say, which of the two countries is capable of producing most. I had one plant, standing in its ordinary place, with its neighbours standing in their ordinary places, having no suckers coming out of it; and it had "seven full ears rank and good," such as PHARAOH saw upon the stalk in his dream. Some plants with suckers had as many as *eleven* ears each; but this seven-eared plant had but one single stalk. One ear was broken off, by mere accident; or rather some man cropped it off without perceiving what he was about. The full and fair ears of my corn have, upon an average, somewhere between two hundred and seventy and three hundred grains in each. I am talking of the head ears, as we do of wheat, and not of the *under ears;* for corn has these as well as wheat. They are inferior in size, though most of the grains in them are equally good in quality with those of the head ears.

176. These ears of mine, then, have upon an average 285 grains, and seven of these have 1995 grains. But observe, that the American

seven ears, which contained 2077 grains (only 82 grains more than any seven of mine) were of *extraordinary* growth; and so extraordinary as to be the subject of such particular detail in American Country Newspapers; and, to cause the article containing the detail to be inserted in the newspapers of the great cities. Precisely how many grains there are in the six ears which remain on my Master plant, I cannot say; because my Son, who is the real author of this great event, wished to present it to the KING'S GARDENER, to be kept, if he chose, amongst the things to be seen at the Botanic Garden at Kew; and, it was impossible to count the grains, without stripping off the husks, and to strip off the husks was, in a great measure, to demolish the plant; but, I have no doubt that that plant had on its one stalk as many grains as this *extraordinary* plant in America. My grains are *not so large* as the American, however. Perhaps they may be a *third smaller*. But, they are as good in quality; and, this difference in size is very far outweighed by the *number* of my grains on an acre.

177. My corn is not only the largest crop of corn, acre for acre, but much the largest; for, I have very seldom heard even rich men in America, who lay wagers about crops of corn; though not in the infamous manner that the

English hop-planters and hop-dealers do about crops of hops, and who carry on a species of gambling, well meriting the pretty severe animadversions of the law; not a roguish sort of gambling like this, but, who lay trifling wagers as to the positive or relative amount of theirs and their neighbours' crops of corn: I have never heard even these opulent amateur farmers talk about any thing beyond sixty or seventy bushels to the acre; or, if I have heard of a hundred, it has been of something that *nobody believed in.* Now, my crop, if under ears and all were included, even saying nothing about the dilapidations of the birds, would be a hundred bushels; and, I will bet (for it is a very good way of bringing the dispute to a test) a hundred pounds, that I grow a hundred and *five* bushels to the acre next year, on ten acres of land all in one piece; and that, too, in the wide distances recommended in my book. I should not be afraid to bet upon a hundred and fifty bushels to the acre; but upon a hundred and five, I am ready to bet with any body.

178. Not only is mine the largest crop of corn that I ever saw; but the ears are the *fullest* and the *most perfect.* The American ears are very seldom, however fine they may be, filled with grains up to the tip-top. There is generally, I say generally, a little part of the tip of

the cobb that has no grains upon it. Sometimes this imperfect part is two inches long; at others, it is not half an inch, perhaps; but in mine, it rarely happens that the top of the cobb is not crowned with grains; and this has surprised me more than any other circumstance connected with this interesting experiment. So prolific have some of the plants been, that we have found many, very many ears, each having *a small ear* growing out from the side, or, rather, bottom of it. In several instances, *two small* ears growing thus; in some instances *three*; in one instance, at Kensington, *four*; in one instance, at Barn-Elm, *five*; and, in another *six*; so that, in this last instance, there is a clump of *seven ears*, coming out of one and the same foot-stalk or tail. A parcel of these ears together, is, I think, one of the most beautiful things that man ever saw, especially when associated with the idea of the mass of bread and meat that it in reality contains. The general colour of the outside of the grain, is a bright yellow; but there is frequently a plant that produces purple ears, or, rather, a shade between a purple and a red. This mixture of colours in a heap of ears, adds to the beauty; but that is all the advantage that I know of; for, the flour of both is of the same colour and of the same quality; and it is curious enough, that

while there are always some red ears, as the Americans call them, in a field of corn; if you plant the red grain, the fruit will not be red, except in the usual proportion. The variety of colours is, however, attended with one very delightful circumstance, to young people in particular. All those who are not naturally fond of work (and that seldom happens to young people), like to work in company; and it is the fashion with the AMERICAN farmers to call the husking "*a frolic.*" The cunning fellows know, that if they were to call dancing *work*, it would be a pretty hard matter to get a party together. There can be no other reason than this for all the families of a whole neighbourhood collecting together, to husk farmer JONATHAN'S corn to-night, and farmer EBENEZER'S to-morrow night, and so on; for, it is as plain as the nose on your face, that twenty families would do the same work in twenty nights, each family sticking to their own corn. Long-headed farmers know that they would not stick to it, and, therefore, they resort to this system of frolics; and I dare say that the same will be done in England after a little time. Young women and their sweethearts do not think about toping, and yet there must be something to amuse, something to prevent the mind from entertaining the gloomy idea that this is work. The *red* ears come very op-

portunely to answer this purpose; for the man, that has the good fortune to fall upon a red ear, is entitled to kiss any of the girls that he pleases, and if a girl find a red ear, she must submit to be kissed by some one of the males of the party. So that there is a constant looking out for these red ears, and a laughing and joking upon the circumstances attending the success of the parties who happen to get them. In the case of my corn, however, where the proportion of red ears is greater, ten to one, than it is in the American corn, this amiable regulation must not be adopted; for it would be a frolic indeed: there would be *nothing but* kissing, which is by no means what the farmer would aim at when he assembled his congregation of huskers. Nevertheless, and so it would be found upon experience, the frolic system is a good one: the privilege of kissing might be *modified*. "Modified!" exclaims the bouncing dairy-maid: "What do you mean by *modified!* You were young yourself once!" "Yes, yes; but lips cannot last for ever." Therefore, one might modify in this way: the valuable privilege might be attached to every ten red ears, or something of that sort; otherwise the kissing would certainly be beyond the endurance of mortal lips. At any rate, with whatever risk to the lips, I would have the frolics: hundreds of thousands

and tall fellows, and used to stare in our eyes to see if we squinted, or were near sighted, and to rummage our bodies about, having us laid down upon a bench stark naked, to discover if we had any latent disease; though they were so nice as this in their choice, and though the average of a whole battalion in those times far surpassed the round-shouldered, and frequently bandy-legged, company of creatures now called grenadiers; though they culled us with such care, they gave us less than half as much pay as that which they give to the hundred thousand lovely youths that they have now got together! Besides which, they gave us no meat at *fixed* prices that would have made us disregard the sufferings of the poor people of the vicinage where we might be quartered. There were only about sixteen thousand of us altogether; and those had not half as much to live upon per week as the settled wages of a common labouring man who had no children; while, at present, the common foot soldier has more than twice as much as the magistrates allow to that labouring man. I am aware, that no introduction of corn, that no management with regard to the application of the flour, that no prescription for the making of puddings, will remove this grievance, which cries to heaven for redress; but, as I observed in "COTTAGE ECO-

NOMY," this evil must be redressed sooner or later; or, this nation is destined to experience ruin and convulsion; and that, therefore, it is my duty, having the power to do it, to provide, before hand, advice that may be useful when the days of redress shall arrive. Of the use of puddings in general I have spoken; I am now to speak of those made of corn-flour. In AMERICA, they deal more in the MUSH that I have described, which is equally useful with the puddings, made with more expedition, and a greater saver of time. Besides, they do not, habitually, dress the flour into a very fine state; they take out just the coarse bran, and mix the rest, either with wheat or rye flour, in the making of bread; or, they use it amongst families, of all ranks in life, in the shape of *porridge*, *mush*, *homany*, or *samp*; or, as it will be presently seen, in *cakes*. They care little about PUDDINGS; but *we* care a great deal about them. In my family, and of course under the direction of my wife, we have, in the first place, *suet puddings* boiled, *batter* puddings boiled, *Yorkshire puddings* baked under meat; and baked puddings, in which the corn-flour supplies the place of ground rice: we have all these puddings in the greatest perfection, made *wholly of corn-flour*. Last Sunday (9th Nov.) we had, at Kensington, as fine a *suet pudding* as I ever tasted in my life

(and in *this* article I am both professional an amateur); and the very finest batter pudding that I ever tasted, and so said every one that tasted it, and two of the party were not of the family. The manner of making these puddings, is precisely that of making them with wheat-flour. But, two observations are necessary: the suet pudding (the flour not being so adhesive as that of the wheat) requires to be boiled in a cloth or bag. This is generally the case with all puddings of this sort in genteel families, though when boiled in the dumpling way the cloth is dispensed with. The other observation is, that, in all these states, more water or more milk, that is to say, a greater proportion of these, must be used, than are used in the case of the rice in one instance, and in the case of the wheat-flour in the other instance. The corn-flour is more nutritious, pound for pound, than the wheat-flour; and this is proved by the fact that it requires a greater quantity of water or milk to make it into dough, or into any given state of moisture. The exact proportion of milk or of water to be used, in the making of puddings, I do not know, nor is it necessary that I should; for every person, who understands the making of puddings, and who is not perverse, will know very well in a short space of time the quantity of milk or of water necessary in all these cases.

Say to "Mrs. Cook," "here is some corn-flour, Cook; make a batter pudding of it." She will at once declare it to be impossible; "Quite "impossible, ma'am! I never saw such a thing "in my life." If she have a little sense, and particularly if she be saving money to get married, and is given to understand that you mean to *have* the pudding made, and properly made, she will be converted by the end of the week, especially if you give a hint, that though she is a very good cook, and though you like her extremely well, you MUST HAVE the puddings. Of course, I mean that the corn-flour in these cases of batter puddings, ground rice puddings, and Yorkshire puddings, and also of suet puddings, if you make them with plums, is, to have its share of eggs honestly allowed it! I am not pretending, or contending that the corn-flour contains eggs within itself; and therefore I must strongly protest before hand, against "Mrs. Cook" leaving out the eggs, or any part of them, and putting them by from her natural desire, which she so rigidly carries into practice, to spare the purse of her master! No, no, let us have our due share of the eggs, and we shall have better puddings; I say *better;* I repeat the word better expressly, and I will abide by the judgment of any ten women who are worthy to be entrusted with the management of a family.

Let any man consider, then, the vast importance of corn to this country, on scarcely any table in which there is not, every day in the year, one or more of the above named puddings, and this is a fact well known to us all. At both my places, Barn Elm and Kensington, I have altogether fourteen servants, four of whom are of the delicate sex; there are three others of the same sex; then there are ten servants who are of the more rude sex, and are no cripples at eating, and four men who are not servants; so that here are, reckoning myself and the other members of my own family, altogether twenty-two persons. I now purchase my corn at Mark Lane, my own being saved for seed; and I calculate, that, by the use of corn-flour, instead of wheat-flour, I, at this time, save a clear sixty pounds sterling a-year, with better and more plentiful living than we could have if we had not the corn-flour. It is a maxim with me never to stint as to quantity; never to attempt to set a limit. It is also a maxim with me, and to which I have invariably adhered throughout the whole course of my life, never to purchase any thing but of the very best quality; be it what it may, fuel, meat, flour, bread. Food for cattle, every thing of the very best quality; and this I do upon a principle of frugality and of saving in the result, and not from any generosity or liberality that I set up preten-

sions to. I wish as much as other people, after securing the point of good living, to go to work in the cheapest manner I can. The fattest of bacon and of pork, and the fattest of all other sorts of meat; and either fatting the animals myself, or purchasing them from the fatter, or from only one remove, or two removes at most, from him. I regulate myself by the season of the year; but for the greater part of it, in the cases where I am not the fatter myself, I stop the whole carcass in the hands of him who kills the animal. Then, again, in the sort of meat, I do not deal very largely with poulterers, nor with fishmongers. Billingsgate is troublesome and ticklish; and as to poultry of any sort, they come from the country by scores, dead or alive, when I have a fancy for them. To be sure, in the former case, there is a very swift succession of poultry; and it is somewhat the same in the case of meat. I remember a prig of an attorney, whose good, plain, and industrious father, who was a farmer, had sent him up to London to make him a *gentleman*, saying, that his father used to kill his own meat, and that it was "all *baa* one week, and *maa* another week;" and, thou foolish beast, where was the harm of that? The harm was, that your frugal, and kind, and foolish father deprived himself of many things which he ought to have enjoyed in the latter part of his life, and, indeed, nearly

during his whole life, in order that he might be able to puff you up into something with the name of gentleman attached to it, that you might render his conduct the subject of ridicule, and by implication libel his memory. I did not tell the prig this; but I told him to remember, that if his father had not killed his own meat, that which made him now an attorney, and gave him a good solid estate (which his father had left him), would have gone, in part at least, to the fitting out of retail butchers with gigs, their wives with fine clothes, and their daughters with pianos. It is very much "*moo*" one week, "*grunt*" the next week, "*baa*" another week, and "*maa*" another; but let the shameless wretch, who thinks this a hardship, look not at the farmer's labourers who eat solid fat bacon or pork, from the morning of one Christmas-day to the evening of the next Christmas-eve; but let the despicable the affectedly luxurious wretch, look at the boys of Winchester-school, who, generally, have been brought up luxuriously enough; but who, at that school, never taste any meat but mutton, from the day they enter it to the day they leave it. I mention, I return to, and I dwell upon, this mode of feeding a large family with the more earnestness, because meat is the most costly article in supporting a family, and because I am convinced that this mode of doing the thing pro-

duces, every thing taken into account, a saving of full one-half. Let that be thought of by a tradesman, who has a large family, and who lays his account with toiling twenty or thirty years in order to obtain a competence. The saving in such a case is a fortune in itself; and if a man so situated, suffer himself to be, by any of those impertinent whims called prejudices, diverted from pursuing the dictates of reason, he ought, in justice, to lead the latter part of his life in a state of penury, if not in a state of want. The same reason applies in every particular to the use of corn-flour, in preference to that of wheat, especially in this case of puddings; the relative cost, will at all times, be one-third at least against the wheat-flour. At present, with our scarcity of wheat, and, with the want of knowledge, generally speaking, as to the use of the corn-flour, the difference in the expense is quite enormous; and, this being so clearly on the side of the corn-flour, where is the man, who has not money actually to fling away, to find an apology for not insisting upon the use of corn-flour in his family; and that too, when his own palate convinces him that it is better than the other? We all know what a fuss has frequently been made in time of dearth, to get *substitutes* for *bread*. Rice amongst other things has been resorted to. Rice is a poor meagre feeble thing,

hardly sufficient to sustain life in a labourer, especially in a country where the exertions of the body are necessary to keep that body warm in the open air. It does very well for creatures that loll about in the sun; but never can be sufficient, in whatever quantity, and however cooked, to give due support to the frame of the labouring man in a climate like this. Yet, the arrival of a few ship-loads of rice has sometimes been a subject of almost universal congratulation. Rice is far from being half so good as corn; which any one will discover from making a pudding from each, ground rice and corn-flour, taking a pint of each, baking them both in the same oven, and tasting them on the same day. If the rice pudding be baked in a manner to make it sink in the middle, you will see a limpid watery stuff on the top of the pudding; but in the case of the corn pudding, over-baked in the same degree, you will find the top covered with a species of jelly, and, when you cut it across, resembling custard. This corn-flour, is too, the *best for the* making of custards, which ought not to be adhesive. Most people know that custards are made of eggs, milk, and flour; very little of the latter in proportion to the eggs and the milk. The corn-flour, being sweeter than that of the wheat, is better for this purpose; and, I wish all my readers, who have the

means, only to try this flour in the making of custards. At present, indeed, they cannot get the flour; for, even Mr. SAPSFORD, baker, corner of Queen Ann and Wimpole-streets, Mary-le-bone, who has been the first to have the corn ground to make bread and for sale as flour, can, as yet, have very little to dispose of; seeing that there are no samples at Mark-lane, worth speaking of, and those very bad, coming from Sicily, and other parts of the Mediterranean; and poorly ripened corn, perhaps, into the bargain. But, when the AMERICANS find that the people of England are disposed to use corn-flour, and when the millers in England, have found out the way to grind it for that purpose, they will soon pour in the fine and sound corn, notwithstanding the duty; and we shall buy it and eat it, notwithstanding that duty. In the mean while the *Canadians* can send it in at all times, nearly duty free, as I have before observed. So that, this discovery would be a terrible blow on the landowners, supposing the farmers to join in one body, and bind themselves by a curse, never to cultivate this plant.

160. CAKES.—Bread at a *moment's warning*, or something equal in nutriment to bread, is the desirable thing to obtain, on account of the various contingencies before mentioned, which must always affect more or less, the making of bread.

One of the great advantages of puddings is, that they convert flour into a substitute for bread in an hour; but, as I have observed before, one objection to them is, that they cannot be carried to the field so conveniently as bread. It is not thus with CAKES, which, without yeast, or leaven of any sort, are made of the corn-flour and baked with very little trouble. A Yankee will set hunger at defiance, if you turn him into a wilderness with a flint and steel, and a bag of corn-meal, or flour; and he likes the meal best, because it adheres together less closely than the corn-flour. He comes to the spot, where he means to make his cookery, makes a large wood fire upon the ground, which soon consumes every thing combustible beneath, and produces a large heap of coals. While the fire is preparing itself, the Yankee takes a little wooden or tin bowl (many a one has done it in the crown of his hat), in which he mixes up a sufficient quantity of his meal with water, and forms it into a cake of about a couple of inches thick. With a pole he then draws the fire open, and lays the cake down upon where the centre of the fire was. To avoid burning, he rakes some ashes over the cake first; he then rakes on a suitable quantity of the live embers; and his cake is cooked in a short space of time. Now, such cakes can be made of wheat-flour, or of rye-flour, or of the meal of either of these; but the

flour of these being so adhesive, the cake becomes so hard that it can be ground by scarcely any teeth that are to be found in the head of man. The corn-flour and the corn-meal, the latter still more than the former, make the *cake light* and somewhat spongy; and, these cakes supply the place of bread even by the choice of the consumers, in instances innumerable; and it is contended by many persons, and is, I believe, the general opinion in AMERICA, that they are better for the health, than bread that has been fermented. At any rate, hundreds of thousands prefer this kind of bread; and, though it is attended with a little more trouble than the making of puddings, it is more convenient for carrying into the field or on a journey; and will, for these reasons, be frequently preferred. The people in Lancashire, have not this cake-making to learn. They have no oven, I mean the poorer sort; but they make *cakes of oatmeal*, which they put into a frying-pan, or upon a smooth piece of iron, which they put over their fire. These cakes are seen in the houses of those who are, comparatively, well off. They are served at the tables of inns, in company with bread; and many persons take the former in preference. These cakes appeared to me to be about the thickness of, and not very different in quality from, that large piece of leather which a coal carter has hanging down from his poll to protect

his shoulders against the rubbings of the sack, and the back of his neck from the beatings of the rain. They are about the same colour, too, by the time they come off from the fire; and, if a coal carter were hard pinched for a poll-piece, I should think, that a Lancashire oat-cake might prove a welcome succedaneum. At any rate, and to speak without the smallest exaggeration, they are unleavened bread of the very coarsest and poorest kind, while the meal of which they are made actually costs twice the sum, at this time, that the meal of corn, so nutritious and so pleasant to eat, would cost the parties. I should hope, therefore, that the merchants of LIVERPOOL, especially as the thing would comport so perfectly with their own interests, would not let these poor people wait for the obtaining of corn-meal from plants grown in England. Nothing can be so easy as the introduction of the thing. There is nothing to be done but to send a bag of corn meal to any manufacturing town, and to send a dozen cakes ready made, along with it. These may be baked in the oven of any baker in LIVERPOOL; and the thing might all be done, and the suffering arising from the dearth of flour and of oat-meal in a considerable part removed by this winter's importation of corn. I have mentioned the *make-shift* manner of obtaining these cakes; but, they may be obtained in any

quantity by being put into the oven; and, in the Southern States of America they form a very large part of the bread, even of persons in the most opulent circumstances, who, in many cases, actually prefer this unleavened bread to bread that has been made by a process that includes fermentation. I do not say that I *prefer* it; because I care so little about the matter; but I should think it no hardship; it would be a thing that I should not think worth a moment's thought, if a law were passed to compel me to refrain from fermented bread as long as I lived; and, observe, I am not like fat Mrs. TOMKINS, who (as I once related in the REGISTER), says to fatter Mrs. WILKINS, "If I have but a potatoe, Ma'am, I never want a bit of bread to my dinner." Now, I, on the contrary, never want either to see or to hear of a potatoe; and it is rare indeed that I touch garden-stuff of any sort. So, that I should find no relief by resorting to the garden; and yet, if a halfpenny were tossed up, heads for bread and tails for corn-cakes, I would not, really, give myself the trouble of looking to see whether it came down heads or tails. Far different, with regard to wheat-cakes, or rye-cakes, or oat-cakes, they being lumpy stuff which I by no means admire. Think, then, once more, of the benefit to the labouring man. He and his family come home from reaping, or from any other work. A little

bit of fire gives him cakes in an hour; another prepares other cakes to take a-field; and I say, that that gentleman, who, having the knowledge himself, would not take the pains to instruct the labourer to do this thing; but, knowing how to prevent it, would suffer him still to run on *tick* or *tally*, at the chandler's shop, where there is a profit charged even upon the profit of the baker; I say, that such a gentleman (if gentleman he can be called) ought to share the fate of DIVES, and to be answered by this poor man, as DIVES was when he appealed to ABRAHAM to allow the poor man of his day to bring a *drop* of water to cool his tongue. When one reflects on the time which has been spent, on the books that have been published, and on the schemes which have been hatched and attempted to be put into force for providing food for the needy in times of dearth; when one reflects on the regulations, which, with this view, have been adopted in large public schools, such as CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, which by-the-bye is said to have been founded by the Protestant king Edward the Sixth, though it was founded by our Catholic ancestors six hundred years before the birth of that pious infantine tyrant, who saw the first paupers ever known in England, and who, instead of a law to provide relief for them, passed a law for the burning of them in the

forehead, and for making them slaves to wear chains with iron collars round their necks; facts which I dare any man with a name and reputation to deny in print: when one reflects on the regulations in schools like this for the saving of bread in times of dearth of that article; when one reflects on regulations of a similar kind, in poor-houses and the like: when one thus reflects, must it not be a subject of joy, to perceive that here is a thing, come as propitiously, and almost as wonderfully, as if it had dropped from the skies, to put an end for ever, to the necessity of all these regulations, and to all the disputation, and all the ill blood between the rich and the poor, arising from compulsory regulations as to food? If, in the year 1800, corn had been grown in England; or, even if its uses had been generally known, at the time when the nation was paying enormous premiums on the importation of human food, we should not, indeed, have had, in the amiable person of Mr. VANSITTART (now Lord BEXLEY), a "*Commissioner* of *Scotch Herrings;*" nor should we have had any of those heart-cheering paragraphs and books, written for the purpose of showing what delicious food, what delicious and nutritious food the English people, if it were not for their *prejudices*, might obtain by the potatoes of the Irish and the herrings of the Scotch; "the

former (as the Reverend Mr. AGUTTER most feelingly told us) placed at the bottom of the kettle, or rather to within two inches of the top; and then a *fine herring* laid on them, and sending its *gravy* (coming from guts and all, mind) gently trickling down through the potatoes, even the skins of which were made so mellow by the process, as to make it impossible for any human being to reject them:" we should indeed, never have heard of these things; nor should we have heard of some half score of members of parliament, that I could name, being reproached on the hustings, by the *mass* of the people, with their attempts to cram this Irish and Scotch diet down the throats of Englishmen. These things we never should have heard of; but if we had had the corn, we might have dispensed with the honour of having a "*Commissioner* of *Scotch Herrings*," and with the dish, exquisite as it was, as described by the eloquent pen of the Rev. Mr. AGGUTTER. The soup-shops indeed, and the *passports* to the kettle, which gentlemen and ladies carried about in their pockets, one would not have wished to be deprived of, being, as they were, a source of everlasting fun. But, there was one thing which we should have totally lost, or at least, should never have enjoyed; namely, that decisive proof of the "wisdom of Parliament," the passing of

the *brown-bread* bill, on account of the scarcity of wheat-flour, forgetting, that, in enabling the millers, in offering them temptation irresistible to sell bean-flour and the flour of cockle-seed and all sorts of rubbish as human food, they were actually robbing the pigs, the sheep, the poultry and the oxen and cows, which, with stomachs adapted to the purpose, were sure to make us, out of these materials, more human food in their own way. HORNE TOOKE, who was in Parliament the year after, called this the "poisoning bill," which was one of the things for which he was excluded from the collective wisdom. I made a vow from the very passing of the Act, never to suffer a morsel of bread to be eaten in my house till that Act had expired; and we were going on living upon old biscuit, and upon flesh, butter, cheese, and milk, and some pretty stiff ale. As if Providence meant to reward me for my resolution, and to relieve me at the same time, a good old friend in PENNSYLVANIA, reading in the newspapers that famine prevailed in the land of his fathers, sent me over two barrels of flour, which arrived just about a month or six weeks, after the passing of the Act. I was safe now, and had leisure to hear the sad stories, and to lament the sufferings of my neighbours: such gripings; such excruciating belly-aches; such cholera morbuses;

together with all their natural consequences; such accidents and exhibitions in the streets, that, if CHETWYND's "exposure-of-the-person Bill" had been then in existence, every second or third house must have been a jail to contain the criminals. In a short time, however, such were the groanings of the people, the collective wisdom thought proper to abandon the Act, together with all its provisions about mill-stones and dressers and sieves and bolting cloths; though, at the time when they gave it up, WILBERFORCE had actually before them the project of a law for granting out of the taxes a *premium* on the *growth of potatoes*. It was worth while for the nation to be griped and pinched a little for the sake of ensuring this infallible proof of the "collective wisdom" of its rulers; and this sort of proof it never could have had, if corn had been grown in England, or even if its uses had been any thing like generally known. The Collective is "an *universal genius:*" ordinary bodies of men, like ordinary individuals, excel in particular branches of knowledge or departments of life; but, the collective, whether in domestic or rural economy; in fiscal and money affairs, as well in the distribution as in the collection; in matters of free-trade, in those of religion, in the barrack and hulk systems; in matters at home and mat-

ters abroad, is, "*in every thing equally wise.*" Then, like the proboscis of that wonderful animal, the elephant, while it has strength perfectly terrific to think of, its touch is so delicate as to enable it to analyse particles the most minute; while it can, this minute, vote away millions of the nation's money, command palaces and churches to rise up, a quarter of a continent to be fortified, or the jails and dungeons to fly open to receive such Englishmen as the Secretary of State may, or shall, suspect of evil designs; it can, the very next minute, skip, as nimbly as the bee does from the magnolia to the pimpernelle, to objects the most diminutive, and can point out to those who have the happiness to live under its control, the exact depth proper for a shop-window; the exact number of passengers proper for a coach to carry, lest those who wished to be carried might not know, or care, whether their persons were in danger or not; the exact degree of coercion proper to be employed for the purpose of inducing horses, asses, oxen, cows, sheep, and pigs, to proceed on the roads and in the streets; the exact place and manner in which to unbutton so as to avoid an "*exposure of the person;*" the exact number of beatings of a pendulum, in a heat of sixty degrees by Fahrenheit's thermometer, necessary to determine the length of the "*Imperial yard,*" and the capacity of the "*Im-*

perial gallon;" and to be brief (for a volume like this would not suffice for the whole), it can ascertain to a nicety how many square inches and quarters and eighths of inches of paper, will prevent that paper from receiving matter of a tendency to bring the Collective into contempt; and to ascertain, with equal precision, how many farthings (as the price of a printed paper) are required to prevent it from being bought and read, in case of failure in the efficacy of the just-mentioned geometrical precaution! "In *every thing* equally wise;" but if any one (and I hope *some one will*) were to make a collection, and a record, of the instances of it sat once "*omnipotent*" and all-searching and all-touching attributes; its surprising knowledge in the affair of mill-stones, flour, meal, pollard, bran, sieves, bolting-cloths, yeast, leaven, sponges, fermentations, dough, and crust and crumb, will not, the reader may be assured, be the least instructive, and especially the least entertaining; and, as I observed before, this would never have been elicited had corn been generally grown in England, or had the uses of it been generally known amongst us.

161. BREAD. This, from the almost universal use of it, is generally looked upon as the "*staff of life,*" as it is called in the Scriptures; but while its real goodness, its convenient form, and

many other circumstances, make it, in most cases, the *most valuable*, perhaps, of all the articles of human food; yet it is not always such; and, as to *health*, if the fermentation of bread be unskilfully managed, bread is sometimes far from being a wholesome sort of food. As to quantity of *nutriment*, cakes or puddings, and particularly porridge or mush, are fully equal to bread, weight for weight of flour. It takes, I think, but about *three pounds and a half* of corn-flour to make porridge for *ten persons*; now these three pounds and a half would make about *four pounds and a half of bread*. This would not be half a pound to each person; and this would be *dry bread*, and *bread alone*. There must be cheese, or meat, and *beer*. The broth, or the skim-milk in the porridge, costs *something*; and a very trifle is that cost; not a halfpenny to every pound of flour. So that *bread* is not always, nor is it nearly always, the desirable article to have, to say nothing about the heating of the oven and the *time*. Yet, it is, in most cases, desirable to have bread as a *part* of the food of a family, though to lay *all* out upon bread, is the worst of economy, save and except the laying it out upon *potatoes*. It is a very old saying amongst country people, that a family *may starve*, but cannot *live*, upon *bread alone*. Well, bread being to be made, let us now see

how the *corn* may be made to give its assistance in the work. I am here supposing the bread to be *home-made*, and that it is for use in a farmer's, a tradesman's, or a labouring man's, family; for, as to those who have money to waste without any real injury to themselves, they may as well waste it on the article of bread as in purchasing throats-full of gas-stink, at the playhouses, or elsewhere, with the reversion of a smother, by way of inducement to purchase. As to the general mode of making bread *at home*, it has been, by me, fully and circumstantially laid down in COTTAGE ECONOMY; and, it has happened to me, to become, since that little work was published, *personally* acquainted with several; I might, I think, say more than *twenty*, mistresses of families, who have actually learned to make, or to have made, bread in their own houses, and who, until they read that book, never thought of such a thing in their lives. In still more instances, I have met with people now brewing their own beer, who had never before thought of it, more than of making their own pepper or ginger. I cannot, even if I would, repeat here that which I have said in "COTTAGE ECONOMY," relative to the making of bread in general, because I have not room; and, if there were not this objection, it ought not to be done, seeing that those who have not read "COTTAGE ECONOMY," would still

be unacquainted with my opinions regarding the advantages of making bread at home. That book, and this along with it, cost but *eight shillings;* to that, therefore, for the inducements to make bread at home, and for instructions in the process, I refer the reader. Knowing how to make bread with wheat-flour, we have now to learn how *corn-flour* is to be made into bread. The meal and the flour of the corn is not so *adhesive* as that of the *wheat*, and still less so than that of the rye. Flour from these, if made into unleavened cakes, will be nearly as hard as a board, as we see in the case of *sea-biscuit*. The corn-flour, if made up and baked thus, would *crack* or *crumble*, or, at least, easily break, and would be, and is in cakes, easily masticated. This quality prevents it, when used alone, from making a *firm loaf;* and it is, therefore, to be, in the making of leavened bread, mixed with the flour of *wheat* or of *rye*. The proportions depend upon circumstances; and they are, of corn-flour, from *two-eighths* to *six-eighths*, which latter, an American correspondent assures me, is the proportion of corn-flour, used with rye-flour, in New England. In Long Island, they, I believe, generally use half rye and half corn-flour. I now use *one third* of corn-flour; and, this might, I dare say, be changed for one half, with increased goodness of the bread; but, it takes

milk, and, taking off a lump of the mush at the time, and putting it into the milk, you take up a spoonful at a time, having a little milk along with it; and this is called *mush* and *milk*. But, here is a most excellent pudding, even if there be no milk to eat with it, that is to say, if it be made originally with milk; and, if there be no milk to be had, as must be generally the case at the houses of the labourers, here is a very good *substitute* for bread, whether you take it cold or hot. It is not, like the miserable potatoe, a thing that turns immediately to water; nor is it like a pudding made of *flour* and *water*, which is hard, closely clung together, heavy upon the stomach, indigestible, and of course unwholesome, whence comes the old saying, "Cold pudding to *settle* your love;" that is to say, to cool a fellow exceedingly, if not to extinguish the source of his passions altogether. The *mush*, so far from being hard and lumpy when cold, is quite light, very much puffed up; and this is the very thing, made of water, and not of milk, which physicians recommend to all persons, who from over eating, over drinking, or any other cause, have feeble stomachs. The corn-meal and flour is wholesome, more so than wheat flour, in all its states or manners of cooking; but, this is the manner the most in vogue throughout the United States of America; and, if a poor man's

family had plenty of this, even without the milk, he never ought to regret the absence of bread. One great convenience belonging to the *mush* is, that you may eat it cold, and it most frequently is eaten cold. It may be carried by the workman to the field in a little tin or pewter thing. It is, in fact, moist bread; habit soon makes it as pleasant and even pleasanter than bread. You cannot make *mush* of wheat-meal nor of oat-meal. It is better to make it of meal that has nothing but the very coarse bran taken out of it, than it is to make it of the flour; because, if finely dressed, the *mush* would be more like *dough:* the coarser it is, the better it is, so that the large bran is just taken out. What a great thing is here, then, for all classes of persons, and particularly for the labourer! There may be bread made every day; you may have it hot or have it cold. There is more nutrition than you can get out of the same quantity of wheat meal; and, does not every one know, how many of those ingenious and laborious creatures, who make all the fine things that decorate our shops, live all the year round upon the meal of oats put into water! This oatmeal is, at this moment that I am writing (13th November), sold in London at *twelve shillings* for the fifty-six pounds; and, corn meal, even with the high duty of thirteen shillings and nine pence a quarter on the corn,

might now be sold very well at *seven shillings* for the fifty-six pounds. There is no occasion to wait till our own crops come: there is plenty to be had from AMERICA; and plenty from *Canada*, too, without any duty that can ever be higher than half a crown a quarter. So that we may begin, in a few months' time, to live pretty nearly as well, as to the matter of bread, as the Americans themselves; except that, the *just and equitable* owners of the land and *fillers* of the seats, will make us pay a tax upon our *mush*, as they do now a tax upon our bread. It is in this state in particular, that the corn is so great a blessing as food for man: it is thus used in every house in the country: some have not the convenience of making it into bread; some may not use it in porridge; *homany* and *samp* are in use in some parts of the country and not in others; but *mush* is used in *every house*, whether the owner be the richest or the poorest man in the country. It is eaten at the best tables, and that, almost every day: some like it hot, some cold, some with milk, some to slice it down, and eat it with meat; some like it best made with water, others with milk; but all like it in one way or another; and my belief is that the corn, even used in this one single manner, does more, as food for man, than all the wheat that is grown in the country, though the flour

from that wheat is well known to be the best in the world. Will our labouring people, then, still insist upon lapping up tea-water, expensive villanous tea-water, sweetened with the not less expensive result of the sweating bodies, the aching limbs, and the bleeding backs of the Africans? will they still insist upon blowing themselves out with this costly stuff, which all the world knows has no nutrition in it? will they insist upon squandering their earnings away on the filthy and heel-swelling potatoes; when they can here, at a tenth part of the expense, or thereabouts, without even an oven, and without any plaguing utensil; will they continue to do this, in spite of reason; in spite of the example of a nation of the best livers in the world; in spite of their own interest and their health; having nothing to plead in their defence, except the well-known and not very rare fact, that they *never have* eaten any of these things? People, in observing upon conduct like this, generally call it *prejudice*; a very pretty word to supply the place of *wilfulness*, *obstinacy*, *perverseness*, and brutal disregard of the dictates of reason. They have a *prejudice* against it. It unfortunately happens that they never have a *prejudice* against any food or drink, to indulge in which is ruinous. I speak of the middle class as well as of the labourers; for as to the rich, they can squander

away with impunity; but in the other classes it is not only foolish, but insolent, and not only insolent, but criminal, especially in the *head* of a family, to permit this prejudice, or rather this stupid and insolent perverseness, to deprive him of the means of keeping his family well fed and in health, instead of being exposed to all the ailments arising from poverty of blood, which is occasioned by poverty of living; and to prevent him also, in many cases, from making that due future provision for his family, which, if he be able, it is his duty to make. Only think of the conduct, only think of the criminal perverseness of the mother of a family, when the father is compelled to toil in one way or another from morning till night; only think of such a mother, insisting upon expending a penny upon tea slops, which have no nutrition in them; or a penny on a pound of potatoes, "I do love a mealy potatoe, ma'am," which has only a tenth part of nutritious matter in it; that is to say, which has only one pound of nutritious matter out of ten. Only think of such a mother; and think still more of the cowardly and the criminal conduct of the father, that thus suffers her to waste his substance, and injure his children; and all because, she does love a "mealy potatoe" in her heart, and because she has such a "*prejudice*" against any sort of meal or flour, that does

not proceed from wheat! But *thinking* about such a mother is not all that a husband has to do. If reasoning, if persuasion, if enough to convince perverseness itself; if means of this sort be tried in vain (and they ought to be tried till all hope has expired), more effectual means ought to be resorted to; and the only means in so desperate a case is that of keeping a *tight* hand upon the *purse-strings*, which is, indeed, the only remedy; complete in all its effects, without noise and without any one disagreeable consequence. With the absence of the means of squandering, the "*prejudice*" is very apt to grow feebler and feebler every day; and, in this case, the porridge and the mush have all their sweetness, all their utility, and all the saving of labour and expense, at the end of about a month, generally speaking, though, in certain cases, it might last longer. Upon the disappearance of the "*prejudice*," not only might the purse strings be slackened, but that would be accompanied by the agreeable discovery that porridge and mush had made a considerable addition to the contents. I must, in justice to the party, observe, that I do not here speak *con amore*, as the Italians call it; for my wife has always been ready, not only to imitate every good piece of management of this sort that she saw in AMERICA, but has actually made great improvements in two or three instances upon that

management, of two of which instances I shall have to speak by-and-bye. She does not, indeed, abstain from the use of tea and sugar, which I am very sorry for on her own account; for the *expense*, the reader must needs think, cannot be an object with me. But she has never had any *prejudice* about any of the things proceeding from corn. She adopted the several modes of using it immediately upon seeing them; and never cried up *old England* on account of its wheat flour, as is the case with scores of perverse women whose husbands take them to AMERICA, and who, owing to the perverseness and everlasting worryings of their wives, come back and starve upon the spot from whence they started. But is it possible that we are to be told, or that we are to think for a moment, that labouring people in England, who do not see a pound of meat from month's end to month's end, will turn up their noses at food which is seen upon the tables of the most opulent people in the best fed country in the world? O no! this will not be believed; there will be for a while a little contest between the *comfortable cup of tea*, and the mess of potatoes on one side, and the porridge and mush on the other; but the contest will not last long; the love of a bellyful and the love of ease, for here the two are combined, will soon set aside the cups and saucers and the potatoe-pot,

the boil of which is eternal; and I shall, I dare say, tramp about the country and see scores of families of round-faced children stuffing away upon one or the other of these articles of food.

157. HOMANY. I never saw, that I know of, any HOMANY; and it may, for ought I know, be the same thing as MUSH. It is the general mode of using the corn-meal in the southern part of the United States, where it is, generally, the *sole food* of the negroes, and invariably part of the food of the planter and his family, and a great part of it too. The weekly allowance to a working negro, is ten pounds of the *flint-corn*, or twelve pounds of the *golden-corn*. Judge, then, what a nutritious thing this must be, for twelve pounds of it to be sufficient to maintain a working man for seven days: and let it not be supposed the negroes are starved, or even stinted; for it is the owner's interest to keep his slave well, as much as it is our interest to keep our horses or oxen well. A common working slave is worth from a *hundred* to *two hundred* pounds; not only his strength, therefore, but his *health* is a great object with his owner; and we may be well assured, that if a negro could do more work, or be caused to live longer, or in better health, by any other sort of food, he would not live long upon HOMANY; something else would soon be discovered; resort would be had to flesh or to some other

thing that would give the slave better health and more strength. All the BLACKS on the continent of America, and in the West Indies, are fed upon corn in some one or other of the modifications; and every West Indian, or American, will tell you, that tobacco, cotton, coffee, or sugar, could not be raised to any thing like the extent they now are, without the food that proceeds from corn.

158. SAMP. This, though not in such common use as porridge and mush, is very much used. The corn is thumped (I do not know by what process), as we do oats, to get the skin off it. This is put into a pot with pork, or any other meat, and boiled, just in the same manner as is followed by the people in the country in the making of pea-porridge. They soak the pease over night, and boil them with the meat the next day, and eat the porridge, *pea-shells* and all. This samp is a food vastly superior to the pea; all the *pulse kinds* are flatulent in their consequence; and it is very well known that pease and beans, kidney-beans, lentiles, tares, and, in short, all the pulse kind, if eaten, by man or brute, to any thing approaching to excess, are always dangerous, and frequently kill. I knew a farmer who was killed by eating Windsor beans along with his men, in the harvest field; and I had a man who died almost

instantly from the eating of kidney-beans, cooked in their ripe and dry state. There is nothing of this sort belonging to the produce of the corn-plant; and the samp is a great deal more nutritious as well as more wholesome, than pea-porridge. When samp is to be made, meat must be boiled with the cracked corn; and it must be well boiled. AMERICAN Pork is the meat in general; but the dish might be made delightful to the most delicate palate, by boiling the skinned corn with a scrag of mutton, or a piece of lean beef; far preferable to any thing that we have put upon the best tables under the name of pea-soup; though the pease be split, and though the soup be strained; for straining may take place equally well in the case with SAMP, which is corn-soup instead of pea-soup. There must be *no skins* in the SAMP, which is not to be merely cracked, but the skins beaten off in the same manner as the Dutch and the Americans beat the shells off from buck-wheat, and as the people in the North of England and in Scotland beat off the shells of oats before they are ground into oat-meal. I saw a windmill in Lancashire, in which I was surprised to see great quantities of the piths of oats cleared from the shell. What they call pearl barley is, I suppose, prepared by the same sort of process. I was first *enlightened*;

my mind made its first *march*, in this affair, on board of a little ship, called the MARY, going from HAVRE de GRACE to NEW YORK, in the year 1792 (Good God! have I been writing ever since that time!); during which voyage, which lasted five or six and forty days, part of September, the whole of October, and part of November, the "Good Sloop Mary," burthen ninety tons, or thereabouts, was tossed about upon the ocean, like a cork. All the fowls were dead, in somewhat the way of TOLGOL's sheep. It could not be called *natural* death, indeed, for they were washed to death by the spray and the waves. But, at any rate, they almost all fell to the lot of the sailors. The turkeys did not last a week; the geese got very poor, in spite of Corn; we had no pigs; and some ROUEN ducks were the only things that gave us any fresh meat at all during this long and most stormy voyage. There was a Frenchman on board, named LACHAINE, who, together with me and my wife, formed the passengers. The CAPTAIN, who was a *Yankee*, and whose name was GRINNELL, and who was a most clever, cheerful, and obliging fellow, resorted to all the resources within his reach to furnish us with something that we could eat; and especially my wife, who, from her peculiar situation, required something other than mere pork and biscuit. One day, he said, "I

wish we could get some *Samp*;" but to have samp, the skins of the grains of the corn must be beaten off. Full of contrivances, as all Yankees are, he put some corn into the bottom of a barrel, I think it was, and thumped it with a hand-spike; all done in a very clean manner; and made us some *samp*; the eating of which samp, gave rise to a dispute upon a question relating to the *fair sex*, or, as the Irish call them, to the "*heavenly part of the creation*;" the nature and result of which dispute I am induced to give an account of here, for the benefit of both sexes; and particularly for the benefit of young men. *Samp* has ascribed to it a quality which has a tendency to produce effects precisely the opposite of those which are aimed at in the doctrines and precepts of PARSON MALTHUS, PETER THIMBLE and CARLILE. This may be nonsense, as far as I know, but this is what people say. The Frenchman, notwithstanding his national conceit and pride on this subject of cookery, was delighted with the SAMP, which he liked not for his own sake, but because his *intended* at NEW YORK was so very fond of it. When a Frenchman is in love, or when he conceits that any girl is in love with him, he takes care to tell all the world of it; and this Frenchman had been bragging to us, from the first moment we saw him, about this *intended* at NEW

York, who and whose sister were milliners, living and boarding at the house of a Madame L'Epine, a Yankee woman, who had married a Frenchman. He had told us forty times over, that he was to be married upon his arrival; that every thing was prepared for the nuptials; he showed my wife trinkets and dresses that he was taking out for the occasion; he had, besides, in most elegant and curious wrought cages, *every species of singing bird* known in Europe, not excepting the *fauvette*, which we have not in England, and the nightingale, so very difficult to keep in a tame state. He had all, of full age and plumage, except the bullfinch; and not to be deficient even here, he had a nest of young bullfinches, half fledged. He had not excepted even the sparrow, on account, I suppose, not so much for its *delightful song*, as for its being poetically deemed emblematical of ardour in the affairs of love. He showed us, or at least showed my wife, letters from his *intended*, expressive of sentiments at which scarcely any reader will be at a loss pretty accurately to guess. When we came to feast upon the *samp*, we had Miss Hicks served up to us again, piping hot, and I, really out of compassion for Lachaine, looking him very seriously in the face, said, "But, you don't think that she will wait for you, do you?" He was a very good-humoured man; he was a furrier, who got

skins down from Canada, and carried on a traffic with France. He was easy in his circumstances, but he was on the wrong side of thirty; and we understood that the girl was only about twenty. When I asked him the question, the spoon almost dropped from his hand, and his colour grew fairly red with anger. Whereupon I perceived that the business was serious; that he was really far gone; and, still preserving a serious and firm tone, I insisted that it was unreasonable to expect that a Yankee girl should wait, not only seven months, but seven days after she was in the mind. He had learned that I had been married only six months before, that my wife was then only eighteen and a half; and that she had been absent from me, and that we had had the sea between us from the age of fourteen to eighteen. Upon this ground he construed my words into an imputation against Miss Hicks; whom, he insisted that I inferred was less endowed with patience than my wife had been. I told him that no such inference was to be drawn; and that all depended upon *country*, entirely upon country; and that I knew that *Yankee* girls would not wait under such circumstances. The dispute grew very warm; and at last, in order to put an end to it, we appealed to the Captain. The Captain, who was a married man, and had a family at Boston, had uniformly taken the side

of the Frenchman in all the various disputes about country and government, and other matters, with disputes about which we wiled away the time that the "good ship Mary" kept us tossing about, but, in this case, I was not afraid to appeal even to him, so confident was I of a decision in my favour. "Now then," said I, "CAPTAIN GRINNELL, you have heard the whole story, do you think that MISS HICKS will wait for MONSIEUR LACHAINE, or do you not?" Both of us looked hard at the CAPTAIN, and LACHAINE with manifest anxiety and fear, though he put on a smile. The CAPTAIN, clapping his two elbows upon the table, folding his hands together, and looking in a very pleasant manner, LACHAINE in the face, said, "I am sorry, Monsieur, to decide in the favour of this d—d saucy Englishman; but, I know my countrywomen; and, at that age, I know that they *will not keep*." My wife, who had taken a warm part with the Frenchman, it being a case in which the sisterhood were concerned, exclaimed "For shame, CAPTAIN GRINNELL, and you a married man too." As to LACHAINE, while he applauded this indignation of his advocate, and affected to laugh at the decision, he was manifestly stricken to the very heart. He, from that moment, drooped down into a silent and sad individual, and there was not a smile upon his face for the remainder of the voyage, which lasted another month. By

this time, his singing-birds began to die; the black-bird was found dead one morning, the thrush another; another morning the lark, and the linnet, and two or three others; and so on, till all were dead except the young bullfinches, which my wife had fed, and which were fledged, and had got their fine plumage before the end of the voyage. I told the Captain (for the name of Miss Hicks was never more mentioned to Lachaine) that this dropping off of the birds was a type of the waning passion of Miss Hicks. At last the voyage ended, and we were, agreeably to an invitation a month old, to go and dine, or sup, whichever it might be, at Madame L'Epine's, and to be introduced to the *intended*. To Mrs. L'Epine's we all went; and that lady took my wife aside, even before she had got into the parlour. She soon joined us; and, pulling me aside, she whispered in my ear, "Miss Hicks is married." I was going to burst out; but she gave my arm a pinch, and I held my tongue. Mrs. L'Epine gave us some fine oysters, fried in batter, which we all gobbled up as fast as we could; and I, giving the Captain a pull and a wink, said that I must take my wife immediately down to the house of a friend who was waiting for us; for which lie I beg pardon, for Grinnell and Lachaine were the only two persons in the country that I knew even the names of. Coming

out at the door, the Captain sighed out, "Poor fellow!" shook me by the hand, and off we went, leaving Lachainé and Mrs. L'Epine to their agreeable *eclaircissement*. I saw the Frenchman, a few years afterwards, at Philadelphia; he was quite an altered creature, looked to be three score and ten, and, withal, had got into poverty; and I have not the smallest doubt, that it was the cruel disappointment that he experienced that was the principal cause of this unfavourable change. Let every young man remember this, and particularly if he intend to have for his wife a native of NEW ENGLAND, NEW YORK, or NEW JERSEY. As GRINNELL said, they will not *keep*; they are good, they are beautiful, they are kind, they make dutiful, cleanly, and good-managing wives; they are virtuous towards their husbands, they are excellent mothers, and are deficient in none of the duties of good neighbourhood and hospitality: but if, after arriving at the age of sixteen, you once put it into their heads that you intend to marry them, *keep* they will not.

159. PUDDINGS. This is an article which, in England, causes a large part of the consumption of the whole of the wheat flour. Puddings are more in fashion in ENGLAND than in AMERICA. They must have been of Saxon or British origin; for we not only do not meet with them in France; but Frenchmen, who, instead of being the most

polite, are, when cookery is talked off, the most rude people in the world; and, while sitting within the smell of one of their own kitchens (for not to smell it, you must get out of the house, be it as big as it may); while sitting within the smell of one of these, which is a sort of mixture, between fragrance and a stink; and, while I think of it, there is a place of this sort in Cockspur-street, where the kitchen is under the causeway, having some little gratings in the causeway, for the escape of the fumes; I am sure, that, to fifty different persons, or, at least, fifty different times, in walking over those gratings, I have said to some one or more that were with me, "which of two things that one could name does that smell most like?" The French, even within the smell of one of their kitchens, will talk of English cookery, as if it were *taken for granted* (which is the most insolent thing in the world), that we know not how to prepare the victuals for our own eating. The very lowest of them behave in this same manner. Mr. CURWEN, in his book about the uses of milk, and the keeping of cows, says, that, when he was somewhere in the North of France, he happened to see a decent leg of mutton hanging up for sale; and that, not having had a real good meal of victuals during several weeks, he snapped at the joint, bought it at any price (and he would

be sure to be cheated), and carried it to the inn where he was going to lodge for the night, telling the landlady to cook it for his dinner, with some turnips: the landlady had not the smallest objection to this, resolving, I dare say, in her own honest heart, to make the "*Mi Lor*" pay full as much for his dinner as if he had not bought the mutton; for, all English people should know that, though the French, generally speaking, are very honest people, the very word honesty is totally unknown to the keepers of inns for the entertainment of travellers. *Leg of mutton* is, in French, called *gigot de mouton*. The landlady asked Mr. Curwen, in what manner he wished to have the *gigot* dressed; he told her to *boil* it for such a length of time, and to boil the turnips in *clean* water, till they were soft, then to take them out, squeeze the water out of them, and then mash them up with some fresh butter. The woman stared at him all this while, as if she thought him mad; and when he had finished, she exclaimed, "Comment, Monsieur! "faire bouillir le *gigot?*" "Yes," said he; "boil it, I say, and boil the turnips soft, "good woman, mash them well, and put some "good butter in them," his mouth, I dare say, watering as he spoke. The landlady rejoined; "pour les navets, Monsieur, a la bonne "heure; mais, pour le *gigot*, je vous en prie,

" donc, *Monsieur!*" putting her hands together, and turning up her eyes, after the manner of the supplicators of her country. Poor CURWEN, beginning to be alarmed for his dinner, remonstrated with her, when she launched out into all sorts of abuse of such cookery, saying, amongst other things, that it was only fit for the worst of dogs. He observed to her, that it was *he* who was to *eat* the mutton, and not any body else; that it was one of the things that he was most fond of, and that all his countrymen were of the same taste; and that, therefore, especially as he was quite willing to pay for his dinner, just as if she had bought the meat, and as it was a very simple thing to do, and that he would have no objection to do it himself, if she would give him a pot and some water, he did hope (the poor fellow began to tremble for his dinner), that she, who appeared to be so amiable a person, would indulge his caprice, though it might appear rather unreasonable, or in bad taste. While he was thus remonstrating, the conceited and obstinate devil was studying her reply; and, at the conclusion of his supplication, she said, being a little softened by his flattery, and he being so sweet-looking a gentleman into the bargain, "pour les navets, je le ferai bien, pour vous faire plaisit; mais, pour le *gigot, je ne le ferai pas!*" Stretching out her two arms, lifting her hands

above the top of her head, bringing them down as low as her knees, and the palms upwards: "je ne le ferai *pas!*" Laying a triplicate emphasis upon the word PAS. I will not do it! That word "*not*" thus pronounced, including in it the meaning of "I'll be d—d if I do." The poor "mi Lor" was compelled to submit, and to eat his *gigot*, slivered up and served to him in some "*fricot*," with all manner of herbs and spices, and sweets and sours; and cooked in the melting of some bacon fat, till at last it had no more the taste of mutton, than it had the taste, I dare say, of any other sort of meat that she could have cooked him. There is something quite astonishing at this insolence of the French, who are in general ready enough to imitate the follies and the vices of the English; and, in nothing does this insolence so frequently appear as in their commentaries on our puddings. They call them *lumps of dough*, in their language "*de la pâte.*" When I first went to the United States, there was a French lad, who boarded in my house, and, of course, he very frequently had puddings put before him. He used to recoil at the sight, shake his head and shrug up his shoulders, and exclaim "de la pâte," instead of which he wanted bread; and, situated as we were, amidst a scarcity of yeast, not near a baker's shop, his taste became troublesome. I

used no coercive means to make him swallow the *pâte*; but, put within his reach nothing but the meat and the *pâte*; and he was too polite or too prudent to make any positive remonstrance; so that, at the end of about a fortnight, he took very kindly to the pâte, which, by that time, he called pudding; and at the end of a month, or thereabouts, the fellow actually complained if there were a dinner without pudding; that is to say, he expressed his regret or disappointment at it, and used to slip away from his lessons in the morning, to go and beg my wife to make a pudding for dinner; and no wonder, for they were of great variety, made in the best manner, and of the best materials. This defence of English food is not necessary to satisfy ourselves of the value and utility of puddings amongst people in general; but, I think it necessary to show, how very useful the practice of making them must be, in the families of those, where not only money, but fuel and *time* are of so much importance. It very frequently happens that a poor man is short of fuel to heat his oven. In the country, you must sometimes go miles for yeast; and then, you must sometimes be in a state of uncertainty of getting it at all: you must wait, perhaps, for many days, in order to receive it by the carrier from the next big

town. Here is another evil that has arisen out of the heavy taxes on malt and on hops, and out of the cruel prohibition preventing the poor man from raising his own hops; and generally out of that terrible taxation, and that system of degrading the labourers, which was carried by PITT to that state of perfection in which it has ever since remained. Mr. JOHN ELLMAN, an old farmer of Sussex, said, in his evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, in 1821, that, when he began farming, forty years before that time, EVERY LABOURER OF THE PARISH BREWED HIS OWN BEER; and that now NONE of them did it, except now and then a man to whom he himself gave the malt. Would not a House of Commons chosen by the people at large; would not such a House of Commons, upon reading this evidence of Mr. ELLMAN, have voted unanimously, "that this "House will never separate, until it has di-"gested a plan for inquiring into the cause of "this dreadful change?" When every poor man brewed his own beer, yeast could never be wanting in any neighbourhood. But, even then, the time was as valuable as it is now, and more valuable, and the same may be said of the fuel. To make a pudding and boil it (for it may be of all sizes, from that of your fist to that of your head) is the work of not much more than an hour.

The wife and the whole family are a reaping, we will say. Knowing that there is no bread at home for supper, she pops off home, turns some of the flour into puddings of some sort, and there they are for supper. In Norfolk, and particularly in Suffolk, the farmer's wife is never in much distress about bread, the place of which she supplies by dumplings; and, perhaps there is no way in which the flour yields more nutrition than in this. To carry to the field, pudding is not so good as bread; but a hungry man gets it down very well, though it is apt to "*settle the love*" of people of feeble digestion. I can remember many a score days of my life, when I had the honour to serve His Majesty, that I called to mind, almost with tears in my eyes, the hard dumplings and skimmer cakes, which I used to eat when I was a boy; for, it is to be observed, that in those my military days, though our commanders were so nice that it nearly required a certificate of good moral character, though they used to make us *swear* before they would accept of our voluntary offers, that we were not, and never had been, chimney-sweeps, colliers, or miners; that we were not papists, that we were not Irishmen, and that we were not *troubled with fits*, including love fits, for ought I know to the contrary. Although they were so nice in their choice, and would insist in having straight

but, you see the thing is got without labour, and therefore it is cheap.

152. HORSE FEEDING. Corn, shelled or in the ear, is the very best food for horses. They will work longer upon it; they will go quicker upon it, and they will bear heat and cold upon it better than when fed upon any other food. Those who have seen the horses in AMERICA, who have travelled in the American stages, who have observed the life with which the horses trip along under a heat, sometimes, of a hundred and six degrees, which would absolutely kill every stage coach horse in England, will want nothing to convince them of the excellence of this food, which contains so much more of nutrition, in proportion to its bulk, than any other thing that a horse will eat, and that he can eat with safety and convenience. In AMERICA the corn is too valuable to be the sole food, or any part of the food, of farm horses, which are, therefore, in case of hard work, fed with rye, barley, or oats; but, if horses be wanted to perform extraordinary work, such as fine gig-horses, or wanted to travel far in a day, they are always fed upon corn: in quantity about *one-third* of what we give in oats. When my horse has, in winter time, little to do, I give him a pint in the morning and a pint at night, mixed with a good parcel of finely cut straw; and three times the quantity is at all times enough. Here, there

is no hay to be dragged out of the rack and to be trampled under foot. If I were a farmer, even on a *down* farm, having watered meadow attached to it, I would never make a handful of hay, that most troublesome, expensive, and most ticklish of all crops. Near great towns, where hay is dear, and where grass is not valuable in proportion, or where the meadows are sure to rot sheep, hay may be made; but, on farms in general, not one handful can be made profitably. Meadows should be used as pasture; wholly as pasture. There might possibly be an exception in favour of sainfoin on very poor shallow and hilly land. A little bit of lucerne, near the farm-yard, as summer feed for pigs, horses, and neat cattle; but, with these exceptions, the corn, with its tops and stalks, used in one shape or another, most advantageously supplant the hay. Mr. CLARK, who has invented the *expansion shoe* for horses, and who keeps what he calls the Veterinary Infirmary and Expansion Shoeing Forge, in Hatfield-street, Stamford-street, Blackfriars, perceived, when he was in America, how well the horses travelled *without* shoes; which led him to think that a great part of the lameness of horses arose in this country, where shoes, from the hardness of the roads, are rendered necessary, from the unyielding nature and construction of the shoe. He has, therefore, in-

vented a shoe, which expands with the growth of the hoof; and, as far as I am able to judge of the matter, the invention, which is certainly founded in reason, will be found of great value upon experience. I have but just read his statement upon the subject; but, though my horse is not a very choice animal, I shall, as soon as convenient, make a trial of this shoe. Doubtless the American horses may owe something to this circumstance, of being left free with regard to the expansion of the hoof; but I know, from experience, that, with shoes, or without shoes, the corn in the belly is the great hastener and strengthener of the horse, as well as the great preserver of his health. When in LONG ISLAND, I lived twenty miles from New York; I kept, as is the fashion of the farmers in the island, a pair of horses to drive in a light wagon with a pole; and though this wagon (the nicest thing in this world) is used for all the purposes upon the farm, not excepting stone-cart, and timber-cart (for the sides taken off it becomes a little timber-carriage); though it be very strong, it is, owing to its being made of locust, white oak and hickory wood, in every part, of size so small, a really light affair, not exceeding in weight the common rattling English post-chaise. This wagon and pair is kept by every farmer of substance, for carrying things to market especially; and, not un-

frequently (twice every week in the year at the least), taking the wife out a visiting, as before mentioned, to take a comfortable cup of tea and a gossip. My horses went very frequently to New York, and were much about on a par, in point of strength and swiftness, with those of the general run of my neighbours, who, amidst all their long-faced gravity and absence of ambition and rivalship, have, nevertheless, this one species of folly; that, in going upon the road, it is looked upon as a sort of slur on one, if another pass him, going in the same direction; and this folly prevails to as great a degree as amongst our break-neck coachmen; and you will see an old Quaker, whom, to look at, as he sits perched in his wagon, you would think had been cut out of stone a couple of hundred years ago; or hewed out of a log of wood, with the axe of some of the first settlers. If he hear a rattle behind him, you will see him gently turn his head; if he be passing a tavern at the time he pays little attention, and refrains from laying his whip upon the "creatures," seeing that he is morally certain that the rattler will stop to take "a grog" at the tavern; but if no such invitation present itself, and especially if there be a tavern two or three miles a-head, he begins immediately to make provision against the consequences of the impatience of his rival, who, he is aware, will push him

hard, and on they go as fast as they can scamper, the successful driver talking of the "*glorious achievement*" for a week. It would have been a shame to pass two years and a half amongst these happy people without contracting their habits; and, therefore, my horses, whether driven by myself, by my sons, or by any body else, had their trials upon the road, not less frequently, at any rate, than those of other people; sometimes we were victorious, and sometimes defeated, but never the latter, without pretending that we did not want to go so fast. Until the year 1819, I used to feed as others did, with oats, barley, rye, and cut chaff; but in that year I could not have these without purchasing; and I had a great stock of corn which I had purchased in the ear. My horses had, therefore, nothing but corn for the whole of that year, until the month of November, when I came away; and they beat every pair of horses on the road, till at last nobody that knew them ever attempted a rivalship. I was now, generally, the driver myself; but it was the corn that forced the horses along, and they frequently went to NEW YORK, or, at least, to BROOKLIN, where the ferry is, in less than two hours, which is twenty miles, besides a mile from my house to the road; and, as I wanted no drink myself, I never stopped to give them even water, unless I happened to stand in need of a gos-

sip. We well know that we cannot drive a pair of horses, a great deal stouter horses than mine were, twenty miles in two hours in a post chaise, even if the road be as good and level as that in Long Island; and I never went without more or less of a load. We know, that the boy must stop to water twice in twenty miles, or at least once; and, indeed, he cannot take you the twenty miles in less than three hours; and that, even in temperate weather, the horses will puff and blow and totter and stumble and quiver in a manner painful to behold. What, then, would such pair of horses, and such post-chaise, do under a sun of from eighty to a hundred degrees of heat? The corn is *mild; fuller of nutrition than wheat itself*, quantity for quantity; it does not heat the animal like rye, barley, or oats; it does not fill his body with bulk, and its mildness does not tempt him to load it with water; and, we all know what this loading does in adding to the labour or retarding the speed of the horse. It is, however, to be observed here, as in the case of poultry, and neat cattle and sheep, that none of them, or scarcely any of them, take to eating the corn heartily for a day or two. It is *very hard*, and covered very closely by its skin, and therefore, does not attract the teeth by its odour, as is the case with regard to grain. Poultry will take it in their bills, and drop it again a little at

first. They will swallow, for the first day, perhaps, only the small corn or bits of it, that happen to be broken; but when once they have digested it, they will suffer barley or any other grain, to lie untouched as long as there is a single grain of it within their reach. It is just the same with horses, sheep, and neat cattle; but pigs, more sagacious than any of the rest, eat it greedily at once, whether they be big or little. I have observed, that it needs *good teeth*. An *old horse* cannot grind it; at least he cannot grind it well; and, as people frequently purchase horses, which are what they call "*aged*;" that is to say, when they have lost those teeth, by which you are able to judge precisely of their age, as you are in the case of a sheep; when people thus purchase horses, or, rather, have them upon trial; and when the horse-dealer, either from want of memory, or from some other accidental cause, gives you a horse as being seven years old, when he may happen to be somewhere between eighteen and twenty-five; or, to be of any age sufficient to have produced the loss or a failure in the strength of his *grinders*, at a sight of which you cannot very well get; a very good way to make a trial of the age, is to tender him some corn. If his grinders be not sufficient for the work, he will slobber the corn out of his mouth again; but if they be good and strong, he will grind it, with a sound that will do your heart good. GAY,

the fable-poet, talks of the carrier who "heard his horses grind with pleasure;" and it is very pleasant to the owner, to hear them grind heartily and nimbly; but, I think it is still pleasanter to hear the sheep cracking and grinding corn. You scarcely hear the hog at it; but a hundred sheep eating corn, is, I think, the most pleasant music that ever met the ear of man. An old farmer in HAMPSHIRE, who was very rich, and whose silly neighbours were persuading him to have his daughter taught music, said "Na! talk of muzic indeed; gi' me two flails and a cuckoo." I dare say, that this saying was as old as the English language. The two flails make a very pretty sound at all times. The voice of the harbinger of summer is also delightful; but, here was the *idea of wealth* most aptly associated with that of pleasant sounds. The cuckoo never comes until *old May-day*; and, two flails going in the same barn at that time of the year, indicates that there is a good store of grain in the barn at that distance from the preceding harvest, and that, therefore, the farmer is rich. I like two flails and a cuckoo very well, and they have charmed my heart many and many a time, even when I was a little boy; but, to hear the sheep grind, in their troughs in the field, while the cuckoo is singing over their heads, is as pleasant to hear, and in this case the thought of the dilapidations of the rats and mice in the barn, do not

come athwart the mind to form a draw-back to the pleasure: the corn is safe in the Crib, where it meets your eye fifty times a day, and where it is safe from those vermin, the thought of which diminishes the pleasure arising from the sound of the two flails.

MAN-FEEDING.

153. This is so important a part of the subject, that I feel it to be right, as well on account of convenience to the reader, as on that of showing respect for the superior dignity of the feeder, to give to my paragraphs on this part of my subject, a separate head. I have been frequently asked, by persons who have come to see my field of corn, especially by the ladies and gentlemen who pass the greater part of their lives under the roofs of houses, "Will it make bread, Mr. COBBETT?" "Why, Ma'am, suppose it do not make bread, but makes bacon, pork, beef, mutton, house-lamb, turkeys, geese, ducks, and fowls?" "Why, to be sure, Sir, that is a great deal." This has generally been pretty nearly the whole of what has passed on such occasions, which, from my perseveringly shutting myself up, and being at work indeed, have very seldom occurred. ROUSSEAU says, "Personne n'aime à être questionné, sur tout les enfans." No body likes to be questioned, and particularly children.

Now, I have always had a particular dislike to be questioned; and this dislike has stuck to me throughout the whole of my life. I thought that my full accounts, published beforehand, especially as I was assisted with so much indulgence and *real* liberality by the editors of several of the newspapers, would have prevented my being exposed to showing what might be interpreted into ill-manners towards the visitors of my field. I was mistaken in this; and when I duly reflect on the great curiosity that was excited, and the great interest at the same time, I can by no means blame the questioning that I happened now and then to meet with; and have only to express my regret, if any one received a shorter answer, than that which more leisure and more thought on my part might have induced me to give. To return, if the corn will make meat of all sorts to be finally eaten by man; and if it will give him horses to convey him about; and all these, with infinitely less trouble, than he can obtain them by the use of any other crop, what more does he want? But, it will not only do these things, but give him a great variety of most excellent food, the most convenient, and the most healthy that can be found, to go, *directly*, into his own mouth and down his own throat, without any intervention, other than that of the culinary process. There are a great variety of ways, designated by

an equal number of names, in which corn is used as food for man. These are as follows: GREEN EARS, SUPPAWN, MUSH, HOMANY, SAMP, PUDDINGS, CAKES, BREAD; to which may be added BEER. I shall speak of each of these except the last under different heads, and shall give as plain instructions relative to each as it is in my power to give, at the risk of the reader, when he has heard me out, exclaiming: "Surely this man "was born and bred in a kitchen, and never "did any thing but cook in the whole course of "his life." To do justice to myself, however, in this respect, I must observe, that I am not so much the actor here as the historian; that I am indebted to others for the greater part of my matter, particularly to those "indispensable and valuable members of civil society," the *ladies*.

154. GREEN EARS. I have said a good deal about these ears, as used by the Israelites; but, I must here give minute instructions with regard to the manner of cooking and eating them. Early in the month of September, or late in August, if you turn aside, or rather open with your fingers, the green husks of the ear, you will find the grain, apparently bursting with milk. This milk afterwards becomes *meal*, as is the case with wheat, rye, and other grain. Towards the top of the ear, where the grains are formed last, they will not be arrived quite at their full milky

state. Having ascertained the state of one ear, you need not open the husks of the rest; the feel of them on the outside will soon instruct you as to their state of forwardness. You strip the ear off from the stalk by a tear downward, and you carry a parcel in to be eaten. You now take off the husks, and, when you have done that, there are two ways of proceeding in the cookery; *roasting* and *boiling*. Roasted ears, such as those mentioned in LEVITICUS, are certainly the greatest delicacy that ever came in contact with the palate of man. In AMERICA, where they burn wood upon the hearth, they contrive to have a bright fire, with a parcel of live wood coals on the hearth; they lay something of iron across the two hand-irons which are used in the fire-place; sweep the ashes up clean, and then they take the ears of corn and set them up along in a row, facing the fire, and leaning gently against the bar which they have put across. When one side is brown, you turn the other side towards the fire; or, rather, you turn them round gradually until the whole be brown; and when the whole of the grains be brown, you lay them in a dish, and put them upon the table. These are so many little bags of roasted milk, the sweetest that can be imagined; or, rather, are of the most delightful taste. You leave a little tail of the ear, two inches long, or thereabouts, to turn it and

handle it by. You take a thin piece of butter upon a knife, which will cling to the knife on one side, while you gently rub it over the ear from the other side. Thus the ear is buttered; then you take a little salt, according to your fancy, and sprinkle it over the ear; you then take the tail of the ear in one hand, and the point of the ear in the other hand, and bite the grains off the cobb. I need hardly say, that this must be done with the fore teeth, and that those who have none must be content to live without green ears; for, as to taking the grains off with a knife, they are too deeply planted to admit of that; and if you attempt cutting, you will cut cobb and all. When you have finished one ear, you lay the cobb aside and go to another. No wonder that this was ordered to be a meat-offering of the first-fruits unto the Lord: for it is the most savoury, the most delightful, thing that ever was eaten by man. I defy all the arts of French cookery, upon which so many volumes have been written, to produce any thing so delightful to the palate as this. So much for the *roasting* ears; and now for the *boiled*, which is the general mode of cooking; which is not *quite* productive of so delicate a thing to taste; but, which is productive certainly of the next delicate thing in the world. You gather the ears, and husk them, as before mentioned;

put them into a pot of hot water, and boil them for about twenty minutes; then take them out into a dish, put them upon the table, as in the other case, and proceed with the butter and the salt and the biting off from the cobb, as before. Common people, in AMERICA, boil them with *fat pork;* and do not use any butter at all, the pork having communicated to them a sufficiency of fat. The Israelites were commanded to smear the roasted ears over with *oil*, their country being a little too *warm* to make a bit of butter stick upon a knife; for this reason too, in most cases, my friends the YANKEES content themselves with the fat imbibed from the pork, which, the reader will please to observe, is not potatoe-fed stuff from WATERFORD, nor blood-and-garbage-fed stuff from the neighbourhood of the slaughter-houses in and about the WEN; but solid as a rock, and sweet as a violet; a thing which the most delicate might eat with pleasure, if thinly spread upon bread in the place of butter. Now, contemplate for a moment the use, the value, of being furnished thus, not with mere *garden-stuff*, at this time of the year, when the old crop is gone, and the new crop is not come. These green ears are bread, and when boiled are *used* as such, nobody ever *thinking* of bread to eat with meat, or to eat with tea at breakfast, or at night, if they have green ears of

corn. I remember that, under that day of the month in which I mentioned, in my "YEAR'S RESIDENCE," that we had begun upon our green ears, I said, "We shan't starve now." I have mentioned before that I had but five rods of ground planted with corn, and I know that seven of us, six men and a woman, had no other bread for six weeks; and no other meat than "*prime pork;*" and no other victuals besides a thumping apple pudding every day. Think of seven persons, getting their bread for six weeks from five rods of ground; and not one of the seven who had not full as good an appetite as falls to the lot of the generality of men. The plat was, indeed, extraordinarily productive; and I think it was equal to fifteen rods of the general crops in the fields. But, it was what any man may have over one whole field, and it was no more than what every labouring man may have in his garden every year of his life, if he have a garden containing five or six rods of ground. The ears ripen by degrees. There are always some much earlier than the rest: there are ears to be found in a milky state during a space of six weeks, or thereabouts. They grow, indeed, *rather harder* towards the latter end of the six weeks; but hungry people like them the better for this, as they have more substance in them, and approach nearer to meal and bread. Any thing of *grinders*

will dispose even of these with great ultimate advantage. Here, then, is no flatulent stuff, such as beans, pease, cabbages, and the like, which are nothing without meat, and generally without butter too. Many a meal have I made upon green ears alone; and many a hundred thousand meals are made every year in the same manner by people in AMERICA, who have always heaps of meat at their command. They keep gathering the green ears till the grain is so hard as to resist the thumb-nail; and then they resort to the various states of the grindings of the corn of the last year. In the culinary process, there are none of those cullings and pickings and choosings and rejectings and washings and dabblings and old women putting on their spectacles to save the caterpillars from being boiled alive; there are none of those peelings and washings as in the case of potatoes and turnips, and digging into the sides with the knife for the eyes, the maggots and the worms, and flinging away about half the root, in order to secure the *worst* part of it, which is in the middle; none of those squeezings and mashings and choppings before the worthless mess can be got upon the table; nor are there wanted any of that tribe of boilers, of skillets, and saucepans, and stewpans and kettles, and a whole heap of stuff, which, in a pretty large house, would, if they were all collected together, after being lugged

out from their divers shelves and holes and corners, fill a dung-cart. Nature has furnished this valuable production with so complete a covering, that washings from the purest water cannot add to its cleanness. The husk being stripped off, it is at once ready for the pot. A mess of pease costs three times its real worth in the gathering and shelling; besides, *keeping the dinner back*, one of the greatest sins ever committed by the lazy and thoughless part of the female kind. Where the dinner is not ready at the proper time, in that house there is no regularity; and no affairs, either of the gentle or simple, can have any thing like certainty belonging to them. Here the thing is ready of itself; no going to the mill for the poor man during these six weeks; no trudging about for the labourer of a Sunday morning to get his flour from the mill; or, nine times out of ten, from the merciless chandler's shop, where nine times out of ten he has it "booked," and where he meets nine times out of ten with a vendor and booker, with less mercy in the heart than the devil has in his, even according to the worst accounts that we have of the disposition of that infernal sovereign. The green ears are so ready to the hand, so carefully preserved by nature from all sorts of dirt and filth, that we can hardly see the possibility of dirt being got upon them, even by the unfortunate Irish, who have neither forks

nor knives, nor plates nor spoons, nor any thing but a pot in which they boil the potatoes, and from which they trundle them out upon a board, there to be peeled by hands, with which soap has never come in contact. If they can but get clean water into their pot, and some more water to wash the board with, here they may have a clean meal in spite of those who plunder them under pretence of making them free.

155. SUPPAWN. This is neither more nor less than *porridge;* that is to say, boiling milk, broth, or water, thickened with corn-flour, in the same way that people in the South of England thicken them with wheat-flour, and that people in the North of England thicken them with oat-meal. Put into water, this is a breakfast, or supper, or dinner for little chlldren; put into milk or broth, it is the same for grown people; and here I should observe, that, the use of corn-meal or flour in this way or in some other, is invariably recommended by physcians, in case of disorders arising from bad digestion. With milk or broth it is a good strong meal, and quite sufficient as breakfast or supper for man to work upon. There ought to be for every working man one good meal of meat in a day. If he be at work at a distance from home, and especially in winter time, for supper it is the most convenient; and then, he ought to have bread and a

piece of cheese or meat to eat at his work in the middle of the day, besides having meat for supper. When at home, or near home, porridge with milk or broth, and corn-flour, is quite sufficient for two of the meals. Half a pound of meal; nay, a quarter of a pound, swelling up as it does, is sufficient for one man for one meal; and the cost of this, at this time, the corn being brought from America, with a *heavy duty upon it*, is much about one farthing. A half-penny-worth of corn-flour, finely dressed, is quite sufficient for two meals a day for a working man, if it be mixed up with milk or good fat broth. I will here relate, how I now manage in my farm-house, where I have to board eight young men and a boy, besides myself, and, sometimes, a helper or two. Let us begin with the dinner; for that is the basis on which we proceed. We have a little cauldron or boiler hung like a brewing copper, in which there is boiled as much of the very best mutton that I can purchase as the whole can eat for dinner; there being no limit as to quantity, and there being always a piece left to be cold, in case a stranger should drop in. The meat, together with dumplings, are put upon the table every day, or rather upon both tables, just five minutes before twelve, and when the clock strikes, we all go to dinner. When the meat is taken up, the whole of the broth, into which a parcel

of turnips, onions, and herbs have been put during the time the meat has been boiling, is taken out with a ladle and put into a clean thing which I must now fully describe. It is made in the shape of the iron-boiler or cauldron; but its dimensions are much smaller, and it is flat at the bottom, and has a lid to cover it closely and two handles to lift it by. The broth remains in this until the next morning; clean water is then put into the cauldron, which soon boils. The tin thing is put into the cauldron along with, or directly after, the water, but there must not be so much water as to be quite so high up as the rim of the tin thing. The water boils first, but the heat which it gives to the broth on the sides and on the bottom, quickly makes the broth boil. In the mean while, the meal is diluted in a part of the broth which has been kept back for the purpose. We breakfast at eight precisely; and, a few minutes before that time, the rest of the broth and diluted meal are poured into the tin thing, which almost immediately boils again. It is well stirred here, kept boiling for a few minutes, receives three or four spoonfuls of salt, and the porridge is ready. Just before the men come in, the maid lifts out the tin thing, carries it and puts it down upon the breakfast table, and, with a ladle, fills the porringers, in number equal to that of the men, which porringers, each with its

spoon, have been placed upon the table-cloth half an hour before; this is a warm, a hearty, and a most wholesome breakfast, sufficient for any man, let his work be what it may, and lasts him well where his full meal of good meat is only at four hour's distance. Here are no grimy porridge-pots to be lugged backwards and forwards to a fire place, and hung upon cranes or chains; and causing the gowns, the aprons, and the petticoats, of the maids to be set fire to, or, at the least, to be blacked over with the pots. This is the cleverest thing of the kind that I ever saw in my life; but by no means any invention of mine, I having learnt it from a labourer, who was brought up in a dairy country, where they make use of such things to heat their milk in the making of their cheese; and as there was neither law nor proclamation against it, I took the liberty to apply it to the making of porridge, for which purpose I strongly recommend it to all farmers throughout the country, and to every body else who has a parcel of men and boys to feed. The water which remains in the cauldron is ready, the moment the tin thing is taken out, for washing up the milk things and for washing the spoons and porringers; so that here, not only is the breakfast thus begun, continued, and ended, but the whole of the other morning work is done up clean, and the cauldron

is filled again for the cooking of the dinner. Thus we get over two meals of the day without *bread;* and one of them (for porridge requires none) without *beer*. The bread is a ceremonious affair, and occupies a great deal of time, and cannot be had at a minute's warning; and the beer, owing to the duties on the malt, is really expensive; for a quart of porridge, as good as ever was eaten by man, and forming a good and substantial meal, does not cost a quarter part so much as a *quart of even poor small beer*. At dinner the men have a pint of beer apiece in this winter time, and they have the like at supper, with as much bread and cheese as they choose to eat, the cheese being, if I can possibly have it so, made from the milk of my own cows, and is what is commonly called skim-cheese; besides this, the men have three shillings a week each in money; it costs them about fourpence a week for washing, and the rest they may keep or lay out in clothes. And, this observe, is for the *six months of the winter*. What, then, does that wriggling reptile BOTT SMITH, of Liverpool, deserve, for representing me as a niggardly master, while the unfeeling reptile knows that there are hundreds of thousands of miserable manufacturers in the North, who would deem it happiness to be able to blow their bodies out with scab-creating oatmeal and water? Deserve! the indignant

reader will exclaim; he deserves to be crushed by the foot of one of these well-fed men, and to have the stinking remains of him flung upon the dirtiest dunghill in the yard. Just in this same manner, on precisely the same diet, drink and all, I live myself, except that, instead of bread and cheese for supper, I have at supper time (exactly six o'clock), a pint of cold skim milk and a bit of bread, which I take in the Yorkshire fashion (which I learned in the army), "*bite and sup;*" that is to say, take a bit of bread in one hand, and the pint of milk, in a mug, in the other, bite off a mouthful of bread, give it a twist or two, and then take a *sup* of milk; which is a great deal better than soaking the bread in the milk; because the teeth separate the bread, and cause it to receive, in every part, its due proportion of milk. The men would not change suppers with me if they had their choice. I do, indeed, go home to Kensington once a week; but there I make no change in my mode of living, except, perhaps, as to the dinner; and, then, I take whatever sort of meat I find, never eating any garden stuff at all, except the onions and the herbs in the porridge. Now, is there a man on earth who sits at a table, on an average, so many hours in the day as I do? I do not believe that there is; and I say it, not with pride, but with gratitude, that I do not believe that the whole

world contains a man who is more constantly blessed with health than I am. In winter, I go to bed at nine, and I rise, if I do not oversleep myself, at four, or between four and five. I have always a clear head; I am ready to take the pen, or to begin dictating, the moment I have lighted the fire, or it has been lighted for me; and, generally speaking, I am seldom more than five minutes in bed before I am asleep. Take such stuff as this, and put it into a Secretary of State, or Prime Minister, and think of the effect it would produce!

156. MUSH.—This is not a word to squall out over a piano-forte; but, it is a very good word, and a real *English* word, though JOHNSON has left it, as he has many other good words, out of his Dictionary. It means this; you put some water or milk into a pot, and bring it to boil, you then let the flour or meal out of one hand gently into the milk or water, keeping stirring with the other, until you have got it into a pretty stiff state, after which, you let it stand ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour, or less, or even only one minute, and then take it out, and put it into a dish or bowl. This sort of half pudding half porridge you eat either hot or cold, with a little salt or without it. It is frequently eaten unaccompanied with any liquid matter; but the genaral way is to have a porringer of

to this very hour, performing their office in an easy chair. In short, all the poorer classes of people in corn countries have scarcely any *beds* but those made of these husks; and I saw the time in my life when I should never have thought it a hardship to lie in a bed made of the same materials. Only think of the immense advantage of having such bedding-material for mattresses, for the stuffing of cushions, for coaches, and the like, which, being stuffed with hay or straw, soon become nearly as hard as the boards upon which they are placed, with the positive disadvantage of being in lumps, instead of being level and smooth. I have not very often ridden in stage-coaches, but if I were a constant traveller in them, I would certainly join in an humble petition to the coach-masters, to remove the grievance of cushions stuffed with hay or straw. Think of the great convenience of children's beds; think of the application of these things to *schools;* but, above all things, think of the ease and of the rest to the weary bones of the labourer, obtained from the outsides of the ears of the corn, which have grown in his own garden, and which will largely contribute to his food for the year!

140. But, now for the "*march of mind*," now for something to enchant DOCTOR BLACK; now for the Edinburgh Reviewers, who, by-the-bye,

have lately been, not pilfering from me, not robbing me, but actually plundering me by wholesale, in an article on the motives which led to, and the consequence of, the "PROTESTANT REFORMATION;" now for these *feelosophers;* now for the LONDON UNIVERSITY; now for the schoolmaster, who, Mr. BROUGHAM tells us, is actually *abroad;* and, by-the-bye, Mr. BROUGHAM himself seems to have been *abroad* for now more than half a year; for, instead of speeches, such as that memorable one, which enabled a *reporter* to go, after he had heard the exordium, to Windsor, to see his sweetheart, and come back in time to hear the peroration; instead of speeches like this, we have heard only, now and then, a few short, detached, and incoherent sentences. Like the principal character in a duck-hunt, he is more out of sight than in sight. The chief interest in this sport consists in the curiosity which is excited, at every dive of the duck, to know at *what point* he will *come up again;* and, as this learned person is now in what may be called a *dive*, curiosity of the like nature exists with regard to him. But, in the meanwhile, and to console him during his dive, I give it as my opinion, that the *husks of Corn* will make *paper* to print his speeches on.

141. Such are the uses of the husks; and, if you want them neither for the purpose of rest-

ing the body nor enlightening the mind, they do very well as fodder for neat cattle and sheep; and, next, we come to the uses of the COBB: and we must call all these things by the same names, or we shall never understand one another. It is not I who have made the names, I take them as I found them, and just in the same state I hand them over to the people of this country. The COBB, as at *e*, in Plate III, is a spongy cylindrical thing round which the grains are placed in rows; and each grain has its stem coming out of the cylinder. When the husking takes place, the grains are jerked out of the sockets, and the COBB remains entire. I recollect but three uses that CORN-COBBS are applied to; *first*, as corks for bottles, of which they make the most convenient things in the world for temporary use. Never did I see any other corks in a farm house in America. The Yankee puts it into his bottle to carry drink to his work in the fields; the wife puts it into her bottles, of various sorts, which hold the spirits, the cherry-brandy, and other such things calculated to lighten the head and to cheer the heart of man and woman. The CORN-COBB, as you will perceive, tapers from the point to the butt end. It, therefore, will fit almost any bottle, and it is of any length that you please; for it snaps off at any part, in a perfectly clear and smooth man-

ner; it being an universal saying in America, "*snap off as short as a Corn-Cobb,*" which is equivalent to, and much more correct than, our saying of "*snap off as short as a carrot.*" I do not suppose that the corks would be quite equal to the tree cork, for the bottling of wine, or beer, or cider; but, as I said before, they do extremely well for all ordinary purposes about a farm-house; and even in this way they are of some use.

142. *Secondly*, they are excellent fuel; not feeble in their heat like straw, not slow in lighting like wood. They give a very pleasant little heat, without any odour at all; and in the late part of the spring, in the summer, and in the early part of the autumn, they make a nice little fire for any temporary purpose: and if applied in this way, which is their lowest office, they save in fuel several pounds in the year to any farmer who has from five to ten acres of corn. When *corn* is flung down to hogs in the ear, the hogs thrust them into the dirt; but they are found to be so convenient even in AMERICA, that farmers, when they remove the dung from the sties, frequently rake them out, and, when they are dry, put them by for fuel, though wood is so plentiful with him, as it necessarily must be. The sheep leave them pretty clean; and, therefore, their leavings are taken for fuel at once.

143. But, *thirdly*, they are beaten by steam or water power into fine chaff. *I never saw this done*, but I have heard of it frequently, and I have several times seen the chaff, which is called COBB-CHAFF, and which must be excellent, as it has served for the bed in which the grains grew, and as it consists, indeed, partly of little shells left in the sockets by the grain. If corn be given to oxen or cows in the ear, which is generally the case, when they are fatting, the neat cattle do not take the grains off the ear, but take the ear into the mouth, and grind grain, cobb, and all. If you give the ears to a horse, he bites off the grain with his fore teeth, and, unless hard pressed, leaves the COBB. The sheep does the same; the same does the hog: but poultry cannot manage the thing without having the grain taken off for them.

144. Admire, now, you that can admire any thing, the ingenuity of the Yankees, in order to save their own bones from labour. Suppose a farmer to have some oxen to fat, some hogs, some sheep, turkeys, geese, ducks, and fowls. He goes twice a-day to his CORN CRIB; and at once, twice, or whatever is necessary, carries out a parcel of ears upon his shoulder, to a piece of pasture land, or into an orchard as near as possible to the farm-house, and there, leaning the basket on one side upon his shoulder, he walks

along and lets the ears tumble out, till he has covered a space of sufficient length to accommodate all the feeders conveniently. Then the oxen, pigs, and sheep, are driven to the spot, for which they are always ready, and to which the poultry most punctually come of their own accord. The oxen, in taking up the ears and grinding them, let grains and bits of ears fall; the hogs, while they are feeding upon the ears, let some tumble out also; the sheep do the same. The oxen will not pick up dirty bits; and, therefore, when they have gone over the prime part of the meal, they just look over it again, and poke away the hogs with their horns as long as there is any part of the corn remaining which they have a fancy for. The sheep leave off as soon as all the clean corn has disappeared; the hogs go on taking up the single grains, dirt and all, and the poultry, taking care to keep skipping out of the way of the grunters, pick up the crumbs. So that, at the end of the meal, there is not left even the fragment of a bit of grain, and only a few of the cobbs, which the oxen have not found clean enough for them after the shellings of the sheep.

145. Ingenuity will soon discover some mode of grinding or crushing these cobbs into chaff; and very valuable that chaff will be found. And, now, there only remains, in this chapter, to

speak of the uses of the STALKS. By looking again at Plate II, you will see that these are but little things, after all the rest of the plant has been removed. If, however, they be cut off close to the ground, which need not be till the middle or end of November; if thus cut off and tied in little bundles with straw, or, which is better, with little osiers; and if stacked and kept dry, the oxen and cows will eat them, in the spring of the year, or the far greater part of them. I have *bought* Corn stalks in LONG ISLAND to give to my cattle; and, if I recollect rightly, I gave for them about a fourth part of the price of common hay. There is no part of the plant which cattle will not eat; it abounds in a sugary quality from the earth to the top of the tassel.

CHAPTER IX.

On the various Uses to which the Grain is applicable, containing minute instructions with regard to the modes of application.

146. We have now seen the means which we are to use in order to obtain a crop of corn. We have seen how the produce is to be managed until it be brought into a state in which it is fit for use in the shape of grain. We have now to see the uses of this grain, and the manner of applying it to these several uses.

147. The first fruits of the crop are to be applied to the feeding of pigs and other animals upon a farm: I mean animals with the exception of man. I will, therefore, first speak of the uses of this grain, as thus applied; and will, then, speak of its uses, as applied in the shape of food for their master. I shall be compelled, with regard to the latter, in particular, to be very minute in my descriptions and instructions; because, without that minuteness, these descriptions and instructions would be too imperfect to enable people to act upon them with the certainty of being right; and without this certainty, not one in a thousand would act upon them at all. I shall,

in order to make myself as easily understood as possible, divide my matter as follows: pig-feeding; sheep-feeding; ox and cow-feeding; poultry-feeding; horse-feeding. Then when I come to the grain, as affording food for man, I shall arrange my matter as follows: porridge, mush, homany, samp, puddings, cakes, bread. I shall place the name of each part of the subject at the beginning of the paragraph that will treat of it, allotting one paragraph to each part, the several parts being designated by the names as above.

148. PIG-FEEDING.—In the last chapter, I mentioned the under ears or nubbings as they are called in America; and observed that these, like the under ears of wheat and other grain are not only imperfect as to their number of grains, but also sometimes as to their state of ripeness and other circumstances. The nubbings are more perishable than the other part of the crop, and are not worth so much room and other trouble. They are never shelled in America, except under very pressing circumstances; but, the moment the *husking* begins, the hogs begin to receive the nubbings, for the purpose of fattening. They are tossed down upon the ground in the manner which I have before described; or, if hogs alone be wanted to be fatted, the Americans usually make a good large temporary sty, on the front of some shed, to serve as a sleeping place for the

hogs; or, they build a little temporary shed for the purpose, and cover it with corn stalks. Here, the nubbings, and, when they are gone, the perfect ears, are tossed over to the hogs, wet or dry, though the weather be rain or snow, and whether the ground be hard or in a state of mud. The hogs get at every grain. No troughs, except to put in water for them to drink; no expense of grinding; no sloppings about with meal; no waste of this sort, which is always very great; and, thus fed, the hogs get as fat as ever hogs were seen in this world. They are, in LONG ISLAND, generally of the old-fashioned long white breed; they are farrowed in March, or thereabouts; when first taken from the sow they are fed upon milk and corn-meal; they then graze and have a certain portion of whole corn given them during the summer; they are *always* killed in the month of November, they frequently weigh from fifteen to twenty score, that is to say, from three to four hundred pounds; and they make the fattest and finest pork that ever was made in the world; it not being the fashion in America to make bacon, except of the gammons, which are cured and smoked as ours are, and which are extraordinarily fine. The great cities are supplied with them; you find them in all the taverns in the country; and thousands upon thousands of barrels of them are exported to the West Indies,

and to divers other parts of the world. The pork, also, is exported in great quantities; but the exported pork is seldom wholly fatted upon corn. Acorns do three parts of the business, and the pork, though as fine to look at, is of greatly inferior quality. That which the farmer keeps for himself and for home consumption, he fats in the manner which I have described. Every Englishman who has been in America, unless a conceited fool, and is resolved to find nothing good amidst all the blessings which this world affords, will say, that he never tasted of hog-meat, young or old, so fine as that which he has eaten in America; and there is no instance, I never knew of such a thing in my life, as the fatting of hog or pig, young or old, upon anything but *unground* Indian Corn, generally given in the ear; but always in the whole grain. Then, even the little pigs, at three weeks old, while with their mother, will begin to crack the corn. She, having to give milk, is fed partly with slops from the house, but the principal part of her food also is the *whole corn*. The pigs at the end of two months, which is the proper time for weaning them, eat the corn so well and eat so much of it, that they care very little about the sow, and do not miss her when she is taken from them, or they from her. In order to push them on, to make them large for fatting in the fall; they have all the milk that

can be spared from the house; and, if the mill be near at hand, and circumstances render it convenient, corn-meal is mixed with the milk, into a sort of *porridge*, which is given to these young pigs during a month or two after their weaning; and, oh God! how superior is this diet, not to that of the miserable human beings in Ireland, but to that, ashamed I am to say it, of the far greater part, nay of nine-tenths, or nineteen-twentieths, of those, in England, from whose labour come all that we eat, drink, wear; all that covers us, both by day and night, and all that conveys us from one place to another! Never was such a thing heard of in AMERICA, as a human being sitting down to make a meal of potatoes. The very beggars (for there are some that go expressly from Europe, to beg, and travel with commissions for the purpose), even these beggars would, were you to tender them a mess of potatoes, as a meal, fling it in your face. The English farmer, who knows well all about the grindings, the mixings, the sloppings of barley-meal; who knows well all the inventions of troughs and hutches, and the rest of the devices for preventing a waste of the barley-meal; and who knows also, that, though hogs will eat dry and whole barley, they will not *fatten* upon it; he knows that to give it as *weaning-food* to a pig would be a sort of madness; he knows, that

though with time an old hog will get fat upon whole pease or beans, it requires a long time to do the business; and that, in the case of beans particularly, the quality of the meat is vastly inferior to that which is fatted upon barley-meal; he knows what a plague there is in the feeding, one hog fighting with another and driving him from the trough, while he must see that when the corn is tossed about the sty, there can be no such contest for the food; he must see, besides all the rest, that there is no thrashing and winnowing in the case of the corn; no calling of men off from pressing work in the fields, to hurry away and *thrash out some corn for the pigs, and get it to the mill and back again;* no "D—n that boy, he is not come back from mill, and *these 'ere pigs will be starved.*" He will see that there are his nubbings and his ears in the crib, always ready; and that, if he do not give them to the pigs, he will, I am sure, think it just and reasonable that he himself should perish for want of food. In the case of *poor men*, reserving until by-and-bye what more I have to say about the advantages of this crop to them, let me here observe, that, when a poor man has a pig, and has the means of purchasing the barley, how is *he* to get it to the mill and back again, to say nothing of the *expense of grinding?* There must be *sacks*, there must be a *trough*, there must be a *tub;* all which are unknown in fatting

with corn. I *practise*, as far as I can, that which I preach. I have fatted and fed hogs and pigs with corn always, when I could get it. I made, last winter, the fattest hogs, and made the finest bacon, that I ever saw in my life. Three Buckingamshire hogs, farrowed in July, 1826, weighed *twenty-seven score each*, or *five hundred and forty pounds each*, in February, 1828. They were fatted wholly upon corn; and, for not much more than *half the expense* of barley-meal, or pea-fatting. I bought my corn, or rather, a very good friend did it for me, at Mark-lane; and just about the price of coarse barley at that time; that is to say, barley not fit for malting. This will not be the case, however, in a very short time; for, when the value of this corn is known, the price of it will be, bushel for bushel, just one half of the way, between *prime barley* and *prime wheat*. If barley sell at forty, and wheat at eighty, sound corn will sell at sixty.

149. SHEEP-FEEDING. Sheep will get as fat as sheep can get by living solely upon corn. It may be given to them either in the ear or shelled. It ought to be given in a clean trough, sheltered from the wet and snow; and the sheep may lie in a yard, or in an orchard, or in any place where it is convenient for them to be. I, last winter, bought some fat Lincolnshire sheep at Smithfield. Every grazier and farmer knows, and they

all tell you, that it is next to impossible, do what you will, to keep the flesh of these sheep up, after taking them from their rich pasture; and, indeed, they say, that, even if your pasture be more rich in itself, the sheep will, more or less, fall off in their flesh. It does not suit me to kill sheep at once, and, therefore, these six were killed, one every week. When four of these had been killed, I happened to be visited by a butcher, who has, I dare say, examined the condition of more sheep than ever he had hairs upon his head and upon his face in the bargain. He had been warning me against keeping sheep, against buying live fat sheep, unless I killed them directly; and this for the reason before mentioned; and he was totally incredulous as to the effect of the corn. After this he went out into the yard, and examined the sheep; and he declared, that, they had not only not *lost* flesh, but that they were actually thriving. So much for fat sheep; and the farmer will know that that which will add fat to a Lincolnshire wether, which is already fat, cannot fail to fatten any other sort of sheep. But the *master-work* of farming, with regard to sheep, is the rearing and fattening of *house-lambs*. To do this, oats, bran, grains, cut chaff fermented, all sorts of schemes are resorted to, to make the ewes give milk; and, to give the lambs a little food at the same time, which shall

keep their *flesh white*, and help to fatten them; so that they may be fine and fat *at two months* old, or less. I bought, last year, ten Somersetshire ewes, which dropped their lambs in the first week of JANUARY. I made a fold on a piece of grass-land near the yard, gave them some white turnips to eat there, and brought them in, at the usual times, to suckle their lambs, and shut them in the house with the lambs all the night. The ewes had whole corn as much as they chose; and the lambs, besides their milk, had corn-meal given them in little troughs in their own pen. I did not intend to sell the lambs; but, at about two months old, some of them less than that, I sent four to Smithfield, which were there sold for thirty-six shillings a piece; and the salesman declared that, for their age, they were the finest and fattest he had ever seen. Away goes all the fuss, then, about "*making* house-lamb," as it is called. With the help of corn, house-lamb will make itself, and corn is the fatting stuff of all the *early* lamb in America. My ten ewes (one having been blowed by the grass in the meadow, or with slime licked up after the floods) brought seventeen lambs. The mother of two of them died. These two had new cow's-milk given them three times a day, out of a bottle. They had corn-meal roughly ground to eat all the while or as often as they liked, and

these were two of the finest lambs in the whole lot. One of them (they were both ewes) was the fattest lamb of its age that I ever saw in my life; and after it was about seven weeks old, we ceased to give it milk and it lived entirely upon the meal. I bought, besides, thirty South-down ewes, several of these (as many as six or seven) I lost from the same cause that I have mentioned before. The lambs of the remainder I kept at the house, and fed as before described. These South-down lambs were dropped in February, or early in March, and there were about four-and-twenty of them in number. These fatted equally well with the Somerset lambs; and from about the second week in February to some time in July, we had always one lamb a week to eat and sometimes two. After the grass came in great abundance, the ewes and lambs ran together in the grass, always as fat as they could walk. Thirty-eight lambs is no bad allowance for one family for about twenty-two weeks. However, long before all the lambs were gone, we began upon the mothers, according to the maxim of SWIFT, with regard to the squirearchy of Ireland, who, though everlastingly shifting from principle to principle in politics; though ready to change their creed of to-day for that of to-morrow, on the most moderate terms imaginable, are, it seems, no *changelings* in the affair of feasting; for

the DEAN observed, when he was recommending them to *eat young children*, that those who had devoured the parent, had certainly the best title to the offspring. We differed from the Irish squirearchy merely in the order of proceeding; having begun upon the children we had to finish with the "*mothers*," the father, owing to the habit of polygamy, permitted among these innocent creatures, being beyond the reach of our mouths and our knives. I killed, on the second week in October, as fine fat ewes as ever were seen; and, in the middle of October, I sold twelve of these to the butcher, at a very good price, they being as fat as moles. I have no pasture-land except my meadows: they are very wet in winter; and they kill the sheep as before described. Besides, all this land about here causes the *foot rot*, in the fall and in the winter, and this foot rot is a most troublesome thing, and very injurious to the sheep. Almost the whole of my ewes suffered from this cruel disorder. I, therefore, shall keep no sheep, except from the first of May until the middle of October. They are, during that season, very convenient for killing once or twice a week; and one may purchase ewes, with lambs at their sides, early in May. Being near to the markets, during the season that meat will keep a week, it is more convenient to deal with the butcher, *provided you go to the*

market for the carcass; for, to purchase joints of meat, loaded with the taxes of the butcher's shop, of his bit of pasture, with the wages of his servants, the expense of his horses, the expense of keeping his family (one branch of which absolutely demands both gig and tea), and with your due share of his bad debts, to say nothing of his profits, though as small as conscience towards his family will permit; to do this, if you have a large family to provide for, and have no means of *coining money*, whether of paper or of *metal*, is to chalk out for yourself a line, direct and smooth, leading from your house to the KING'S BENCH; more especially, if you expose yourself to the numerous and unintentional mistakes which generally arise from *booking* the joints. Unable to consume a whole carcass, the nearer you come to it the better. The public market is the place to buy meat at; and, if you be too feeble to carry it home yourself, a horse, or a pair of shoulders, is never very difficult to obtain.

150. OXEN AND COW FEEDING. I have before given an account of the manner in which they feed oxen with ears of corn in America. If you fat oxen at manger, you must feed either with ears or you must grind the corn into meal; for, if they have it in shelled corn, they ruminate and digest only a part of it. I have seen a score of oxen together in a yard, having a manger

in a shed to eat the corn in; but, having for companions about the yard, a troop of hogs fatting, and becoming very fat upon the results of the imperfect digestion. Sheep digest the whole completely. I do not, however, recommend this mode of fatting oxen or hogs; I never saw it but once, and that was at a Mr. TAYLOR's, in PENNSYLVANIA. I thought it nasty, and I told him so. If people in AMERICA desire to have prize oxen, they finish the fatting of them on corn-meal, which they put into the mangers in the same manner that we put barley-meal; and the fattest oxen that ever were seen, I believe, in any part of the world, famous old England not excepted, have been killed in PHILADELPHIA. There was one killed there, in the winter of 1818, mention of which is, I believe (for I have not at this moment a copy of the book) made in the YEAR'S RESIDENCE, which surpassed, in point of fatness, any ox ever seen in England in our times at least. He was fatted by a Quaker, in the Western part of NEW JERSEY; and, they did say, that EBENEZER actually sat up *a-nights* with him, for the last two months before he was killed. I forget the enormous price that the beef was sold at, after great sums had been made by exhibiting the ox as a show. This ox was fatted upon corn-meal, towards the latter part of the time; and, whoever has a mind for

a prize in this way, whether for oxen, sheep, or hogs, must make use of corn-ears in the beginning and corn-meal at the end; for the hogs can eat the meal, that is to say, they can get at it after they are too heavy to stand, during the time necessary to pick up and grind the grain of whole corn. The corn-meal, though more nutritious, is not so *heating* as barley meal; and is therefore excellent for cows which give milk for butter. Last winter I kept a horse, four milch rows, ewes as before mentioned, and lambs; and never was there a handful of *hay* used in my yard. My cows, which it was necessary to keep well, in order to have plenty of butter, and that fine and yellow, and of a sweet flavour, were fed upon corn-meal, a gallon of which was mixed, and well rubbed together, with about a half-a-bushel of fine cut wheat straw, instead of which latter I should have used corn tops if I had had them. Every body was surprised to see such butter made in *winter*. One of the cows was near her calving-time in the month of April; but we made, upon an average, twenty-four pounds of butter a week; besides a pretty liberal supply of cream, not made into butter. Our butter was sold, when not wanted, at two-pence a pound higher than the general run of the best butter from the best dairies in the country.

151. POULTRY-FEEDING. This is a very great

matter. There is no grinding, no messings of barley-meal to fat poultry with. All you have to do is, to give them a sufficiency of shelled corn tossed down to them in the yard; and they will all of them, turkeys, geese, ducks, and fowls, become as fat as fat can be. We killed, last spring, one single pullet, not of a large breed, out of which we took loose fat weighing *three quarters of a pound*. We fattened most perfectly and finely ten turkeys in the same manner; and as to geese and ducks, which fat still easier than either of the former, they will get fat in this manner in a short space of time. If you wish to have fresh eggs in winter, you need resort to no steeping of barley in beer or in wine, or to giving the hens hempseed, or the seed of nettles, as the French do; nor, to make such a fuss about keeping the hens warm; give them plenty of corn, *whole*, and you will have fresh eggs all the winter long. To the very little chickens, or very young turkeys, you must give some in a *cracked* state; but, they very soon take it down whole; and, large as it is, the sparrows will eat it as fast as the fowls; and, if you be much infested with them, and do not wish to have a numerous and early breed of them next spring, you must feed the poultry close to the door, or stand by them during the meal, which, however, is conveniently short; for the grain is so large that

their craws are filled in a minute. It is very well known that, in order to have a *fat turkey*, or even a really fat fowl, we are compelled to resort to cramming. If the farmer's wife have a dozen of these, there she sits (for she can trust nobody else to do it), with a leathern apron before her, or rather upon her, with balls of barley meal, rolled into an oblong form, and with a bowl of warm milk, or with some greasy water, taking one turkey out of the coop at a time, upon her lap, forcing its mouth open with her left hand, putting in the balls with her right, and stroking with her fingers the outside of the neck to make them descend into the craw, every now-and-then pouring down a spoonful of the warm liquid, upon the principle that good victuals deserves good drink: there she sits, if she have two dozen of these animals to cram, two good hours at the least. Sometimes they reject the food, and flutter about, and splash the woman with the contents of the bowl. It is always a disagreeable, troublesome, and nasty job; it takes up a great deal of time; and yet these things cannot be made sufficiently fat, without this operation, in which, I dare say, twenty thousand women are at this very moment (eight o'clock in the morning) engaged, in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. If all these women could be brought together, and were to hear me say,

and prove, that I could save them all this trouble, they would say "God bless you, Sir; you "are the best friend (the inventor of tea and "sugar excepted) that ever administered to the "comfort of woman kind." Well, then, this I do for them now; let their husbands raise some COBBETT'S CORN, the leathern aprons may be converted into spatter-dashes for them, the warm milk or greasy water may be given to young pigs, the bowl may be converted into a porringer for a boy to eat porridge out of, the coops, well broken up by the pole of the axe, may go to light the fire; and the four hours saved morning and evening may be employed in spinning and preparing the stuff to make shirts, and shifts, and sheets; or, which makes less noise, in knitting stockings for the whole family. Every Englishman who has been in AMERICA, and who does not think that the honour of his country is to be preserved by telling lies about it, will acknowledge, that, the pork and the poultry is there the best he ever tasted in his life. I hardly ever saw one so very contemptibly perverse as not to acknowledge this; and here is the sole cause. You will buy a turkey of twelve or fourteen pounds weight for a dollar, that is to say, four and sixpence of our money, while even a woman's wages is not less than from fifteen to twelve dollars a month, even if boarded in your house;

taking off of the ears of corn is to be fixed on by such rule. The time for topping is, when you, upon stripping the husks open a little at the tops of the ears, find the grains of the corn to be hard; not hard enough to grind; not dry; but hard enough to resist the strong pressure of the thumb-nail. A second criterion is, all the farina having completely quitted the *tassel*, and the tassel being completely dead and dry. A third is, the perfect deadness of the ends of the silk as at *d, d, d;* where, instead of the bright green that appeared before, hanging gracefully down, like the beard of an extraordinarily cunning and blaspheming Jew, you will perceive it to be a little contemptible bunch of withered-up and brown-looking stuff. When all these signs appear, the *top* and the *blades* have performed their office, and the sooner they are taken away the better; because, after this, they do no good, and only serve to retard the ripening of the ears by the exclusion which they cause to the sun and the wind.

119. You will observe, that, at this time, the husk which covers the ear is still *green;* and, indeed, that the whole plant is still nearly green, except the tassel and the silk. This state of the plant will take place, earlier or later in the year, according to the weather that you have had, and according to the earliness or lateness of the plant-

ing, generally it will be about the *end of the first week in September;* sometimes a little earlier, and sometimes a little later; but, I recommend you not to be regulated by the time of the year, in this work of topping the corn, any more than you would be in the work of gathering peaches: you gather the peaches when they are ripe, without the smallest attention to the season of the year; and you must top the corn when it is fit for topping, without any such reference. The grain is soft, and if you press it with your thumb-nail milk will come out, until the plant be in the state above described. You must not top the corn as long as the grains are in this milky state, even at the tips of the ears; and these will remain in a milky state, some time after the grains at the bottom of the ears are nearly hard.

120. The *act of topping* is not very difficult to describe, nor is it very difficult to perform. A man goes with a sharp knife, cuts off the top, as at *a:* this brings off a part of the blades also, as will be seen by a reference to Plate I. He then snaps off the other blades, or strips them off as near to the stem as he can, not taking any very great pains about the matter; and thus he goes on from plant to plant. He lays the produce down in the interval, in convenient little parcels, not so large as to prevent the tops and blades being well dried, if the weather be fine;

when they are well dried, they ought to be tied into little bundles or sheaves, and one of the tops will serve as a *band* to each sheaf of tops and blades. This is the best way of tying them up, for the sheaves should be small, and this band is sufficient.

121. No man will choose really wet weather for this work; and he need not choose it; for, there is generally some fine weather in the month of September, in which month one half of the barley in England is harvested; and barley requires a great deal more sun and wind to prepare it for housing than the tops and blades of corn require. Indeed, this season of the year gives as good a chance as any other for fine weather; and if these tops be well got in, they are the most valuable fodder in the world. The tops are stout, and require much more drying than the blades. It is a good way, therefore, to go along the row and first cut off the tops and lay them down in parcels as a sort of bed to lay the blades upon; then to come after, cut off the blades, and lay them down upon the tops. When the blades are pretty dry, which will be at the end of two or three days if the weather be fair, tie up the sheaves, which will bring all the tops to the outsides of the sheaves. Then set up the sheaves in little shocks, and there let them stand until the tops be sufficiently dry.

122. I have made provision for distances sufficient to admit a cart to go along without running over the corn. The cart, going along one interval, will take up as it goes the sheaves in that interval and those in the two adjoining intervals. The ox or the horse will, of course, go up the furrow in the middle of the interval; and then, if the wheels of the cart be not, as they ought not to be, more than four feet three inches from each other, measuring from outside to outside of the bonds of the wheels, neither of the wheels can possibly disturb the corn. The reader will here perceive the great use of the distances that I have prescribed, and the necessity of causing the ploughing to be true.

123. When the tops are ready for carting, prepare a *bed* or *steaddle* for them about five or six feet wide, and of length according to the quantity which you have to stack. Make this of fagots, or furze, or of any thing sufficient to keep the bottom sheaves a foot at least clear of the ground. Lay on the sheaves, *butt-end outwards*, on each side of the stack, and bind them in the middle by laying some sheaves long-ways. Carry the stack to a convenient height, and thatch it slenderly with straw. You have now a precious deposite for the winter. It will be of greater or less value, just as hay is, according to the weather in which you have harvested it; but, it is liable to

no inconvenience to which hay is not liable; and, weight for weight, and weather for weather, an acre of corn tops and blades will give more nutriment to cattle, and is of course more valuable. These tops and blades are, by the American farmers, reserved as the food of their horses or oxen, in March, April, and May, before the grass comes, and when the cattle have the greatest labours of the year to perform. They are given to race-horses, and other delicate and valuable, or, at least, highly prized, horses. They are excellent for cutting up into chaff; and, as there are but very few oats grown in America, and as corn is much more precious than rye or barley, the cut chaff of corn tops is much given to horses, mixed with whole barley or rye.

124. My corn-topping this year was, in the first place, very late, owing to the wet summer. In the next place, my intervals were so narrow, that the plants, as they remained after the topping, in a great measure shaded the tops and blades as they lay upon the ground. Then, my tillage had been such (mere flat hoeings) as to suffer summer weeds to come up, in July and August, and to get on to a good height by the time that my topping began; so that the tops had to be laid down amongst these weeds, upon which the dew was kept to nine or ten o'clock in the day, by the complete shade which the

plants extended over the intervals. Besides all which, there was the impossibility of going along the intervals with the cart, to bring the tops away; and, to bring them out on the backs of men, from all the parts of a field three hundred and fifty yards long, and, on an average, perhaps, three hundred yards wide, was a job not to be undertaken without almost a regiment of men, especially as the men could not go *cross-ways* without breaking off the corn that was left standing; in addition to all these, though we have had a fine autumn, we have not, since my topping began, had one whole week without more or less of rain.

125. With intervals and summer cultivation such as I have given instructions for, all these difficulties and inconveniences would have been completely avoided; and, notwithstanding the untowardness of the summer, which was the very worst for my corn which I ever knew, my tops and blades would, if I had had intervals and ploughings such as I have described, have been got in in a perfectly good state; for corn tops have this great advantage over hay, that you need not cut the whole field at one time. If you begin mowing, you must go on till the field or the meadow be cut, and you must take your chance as to weather. You must make your *rick* all at once, or, at least, it is desirable so to do; you

cannot assemble your army of men, women, girls, boys and horses or oxen, and disband them to-day, call them out again to-morrow, send them away in the morning, and bring them forth again in the afternoon; hay-cutting and making and stacking, form an operation that must be begun, continued, and ended, at one spell, or the hay is more or less spoiled. Now, the business of corn-topping may, with very little injury, be a fort-night or three weeks, or even a month, in hand; for, though one would wish to do the whole at the precise minute when the plants are in the proper state, no great injury, nor perhaps any injury at all, arises to the *ears* if the corn be never topped at all, provided the intervals be sufficiently wide; and I knew a Quaker, in LONG ISLAND, who never did top his corn, but who cut the whole plant off close to the ground, after the blades had changed colour, tied them in small sheaves, and set them up in shocks to dry. When perfectly dry, he pulled off the ears and put by the whole plant for fodder; top, blades, stalks and all.

126. So that there is no great harm that can arise from a protraction of the work of topping. You may choose your weather, both for topping and housing, and the long and narrow stack, above described, enables you to stack and to thatch as you go. Generally, the application of the tops

and blades is that of giving them as food to horses, or to milch cows, towards and in the spring of the year, March, April, and the former part of May. They are also given to sheep in the winter; and particularly to ewes that have lambs. To a horse a bundle is given in the rack; to a cow in her crib; and to sheep in little racks, or in something that prevents them from treading them about. All these animals will eat them up clean, even to the stoutest part of the tops. There is so much of sweetness in every part of the plant, that all animals are fond of it. Notwithstanding all the disadvantages above enumerated, in the case of my tops of this year, I should have had the greater part of them in very fair order, had it not been for my expedition to *Penenden Heath!* There were then two days, which, if I had been at home, would have brought a large part of them into the stack in passable condition. But the ecstatic delight of hearing Mr. SHIEL, at perceiving and having ocular and auricular demonstration of the surprising fact, that a man can be heard, in a north-west direction, to the distance, in a straight line, of more than thirty miles, while the same words coming from the same lips (or words said to be the same), cannot be heard at more than about thirty inches towards the south-east; the delight arising from this discovery was not, and is not, for a moment,

to be put in competition with the saving of a crop of corn tops. However, after all, I set a great value upon these tops, which I shall, according to the practice in America, reserve to be given to the cattle in the latter part of the winter, or early in the spring. Of the *stalks* I shall speak by-and-bye; for even these are used, and sometimes sold, as fodder in America.

CHAPTER VIII.

On the Harvesting of the Ears; on the Husking of them; on the Mode of keeping them; on the separating of the Grain from the Cobb; and on the uses of the Husks and the Cobbs.

127. The harvesting of the ears, or, rather, the gathering of them, is performed when you see the husk turned white on the outside; and, indeed, when you find that the corn has become *quite hard*. The operation is performed thus: you take a cart, go up the interval, have a couple of men, taking each of them one row of plants, stripping off the ears as they go, and tossing them into the cart. When you get to the end of the field, the cart, if not full, comes along another interval, where you do the same; and, at any rate, the cart ought not to turn in the middle of the field; because there is not room enough for it to turn in a breadth of five feet, without crushing some of the plants. Therefore, if your cart be full before you get to the end of the field, you ought to go out to the end, turn upon the head-land, and come down the next or some other interval.

128. And here let me speak of *head-lands*. In all cases where the drill husbandry and wide spaces are followed, there must be head-lands to turn upon; these need not be very wide; ten feet are sufficient; and, they need not be *idle* during the summer; for, after you have done the last ploughing of your corn, which will take place, perhaps, as late as the middle of August, or later, you may sow the head-lands with the early white turnip, which will come off and be of a very good size, before the latter end of October, especially if the land be nicely ploughed, and the turnips nicely hoed; and this late sowing of turnips is a complete protection against the *fly* or *flea*, which is the mortal enemy of this plant, and the ravages of which it seldom escapes, if sowed at an earlier season; so that these head-lands are, by no means, so much of lost ground.

129. Look now at PLATE II. You will perceive that each ear has a tail to it. You are not to attempt to twist off the ear from the tail; but are to strip downwards, tail and all; and fling the whole into the cart together. When you bring in the ears, tip them down in a shed or barn's floor, as a convenient place for husking, and as a protection against the wet. Then comes the husking; that is to say, by stripping the husk from the ears. This work is done by children even: it is a considerable job if you

have any quantity of corn; but, all the children of the farmer's family, and all the children from the workhouse, if necessary, may be employed at it. A child ten years of age will do the work pretty nearly as well as a man. The work will come at a time of the year when there is little or no employment for such persons; the wages are low; and the cost comparatively little. Then, it may be done by very *slow degrees;* it is now the tenth of November, and one half of my corn is yet hanging upon the stalks, with advantage rather than the contrary. If you apprehend wet weather, it is good to do as I have now done; namely, get in a large quantity, so as not to render it necessary to go actually out in the wet to bring it in. One dry day, whether frosty or not, is sufficient: if there be absence of rain for one day, or half a day, and if there be a little wind, it will enable you to re-commence gathering.

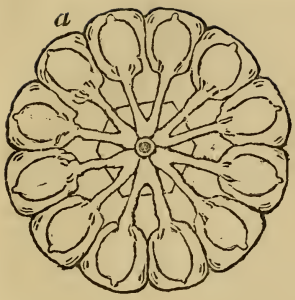
130. The huskers are seated conveniently round, or at the side of, a large heap: they have baskets placed before them: they strip off the husks, twist them out by the tail, fling them behind them, and toss the ears into a basket. While this is going on, the farmer himself, or some particularly trusty man, takes away the baskets with the ears in them; and, having sorted them, puts the *head-ears* into the CORN-

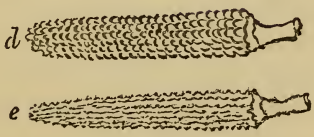
CRIB, of which I shall say more presently. In all corn fields there are some *under-ears*, as there are in all wheat and other fields of grain. The grain in these under-ears is inferior in size, sometimes in ripeness, and sometimes in other respects, and is of a quality rather inferior to the grains of the head-ears. These under-ears generally amount to about a sixth part of the crop; but, though of inferior quality, they are by no means without their value; they are good for the purpose of fatting hogs, sheep, and poultry.

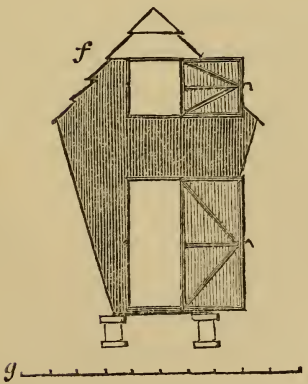
131. I have said that the head-ears are to be put into the corn-crib, which is, in fact, a little granary standing upon stones, or upon posts surrounded with tin, as a protection against rats and mice. The ends and the sides are not to be boarded, but lathed with interstices, too narrow to let out a full ear of corn. Here it is, that the corn is kept; because, though in the hottest countries, there remains so much of moisture in the cobb which feeds the grains, and in which they are, indeed, *planted* by nature, that, if the ears were to be put together in great quantities, they would mould more or less, if shut up in any situation that would exclude them from the sun, the air, and the winds. Mould never comes in the open air, at least it never does to substances of this sort.

132. The reader will now refer to Plate III, on the opposite page, and to the following description appertaining to it, as I come to the several things, the representations of which it contains: —— *a*, is a transverse section of an ear, of perfect growth, natural size. The figure exhibits the centre or pith of the cobb, hollow, in a circular form, and about one eighth of an inch in diameter; the solid part of the cobb, in the form of a hexagon, about one third or nearly half an inch in diameter; six stems, commencing or having their base upon the circle of pith, and, almost immediately from the base, divided or branching into two, in which double form they grow, each issuing from one of the sides of the solid part of the cobb, and then pushing through a fine husky substance of very slight texture; the grains growing on the extremities of the stems, being embedded in and wedged tight by these husks; the spear, or germ, to each grain is plainly perceivable on the side, with the point or eye of the germ near to the surface of the grain, from which points start the individual threads or silks, which, collected at the end, as in Plate I, are termed "the silk:" —— *b* and *c*, are two grains, corresponding with the foregoing in proportion, rubbed from the cobb, and exhibited on both sides: —— *d*, a perfect ear, full length, on a scale diminished from the original: —— *e*, the cobb, proportionate to the

Plate. III.







ear *d*: ——*f*, the elevation of one end of a corn-crib: ——*g*, scale of ten feet, corresponding to the dimensions of the corn-crib.

133. The CRIB, as seen in the Plate, is three feet wide at the bottom, seven feet from the bottom to the eaves measuring up the side, and seven feet wide at the top. These are the dimensions of my cribs; but, they were made in my absence, and nearly at a guess from recollection. I would recommend them to be made two feet wide at the bottom, five feet high up the sides to the eaves, and five feet across at the top. They would hold a much smaller quantity this way; but, the air would circulate more freely; and the corn would be better preserved.

134. I beg the reader, if he be a farmer, to be so good as to think a little of the plague, the everlasting plague, and the everlasting waste of ricks and mows. Then let him look at a corn-crib or two, and there see his crop, in a state of perfect security, for any length of time that he may choose. Here, there is no throwing of corn away amongst the straw and the chaff; here, there is no devouring by the rats and the mice. At a barn's door, in thrashing time, thousands of sparrows are feeding from morning till night, each taking away during the day a common wine-glass-full of the grain; and, though pigs and poultry do make a shift to come in for

a share of what is thrown out, there is still a great deal left to be trampled into the dirt and to be totally destroyed; and, as to rats and mice, if you keep a *mow* standing until the spring of the year, which you are frequently compelled to do, and even into the middle of the summer; if you do this, the rats and mice have a good tenth part of your crop, in spite of rat-catchers and mice-destroyers, and of all the traps and cats that you can set or put into motion. Even *ricks* are not always a protection against these vermin. The mice will get into ricks in spite of you. The rats may be got out by ferrets if they get in, but they frequently are not; and you often see holes in the thatch out of which they come to lick up the rain or the dew. Ingenuity has been exhausted in attempts to discover the means to rid farm buildings and yards of these vermin, and exhausted too, without any thing worthy of the name of success.

135. The corn-crib is a complete protection against all these losses and inconveniences; and, which is another great advantage, you *know the amount of your crop* the moment you have husked your corn; for, a *bushel of ears* produces exactly, or so nearly as to justify one in calling it exactly, half-a-bushel of corn. That this is the case I need only tell the reader, that, when corn is sold in the ear in America, a bushel of ears is counted for half-a-bushel of corn. I think that the pro-

portion must be in favour of my corn, because these ears being shorter, they will lie closer in the bushel, than the long ears of the American Corn: but of this I am not quite sure. Knowing the amount of your crop at once, you know how much you can sell, and are able to determine how much you shall use upon the farm. In addition to this advantage, there is another, equally great; namely, that of being able to *choose your time of selling*. For, you do not, as will be presently seen, need to wait the slow operations of the flail; and, besides, it is not necessary, to sell as you thrash; for it is very inconvenient to keep the grain by you after it be thrashed; and, in the case of barley, the straw of which is wanted for fodder, you must thrash by slow degrees as the fodder is wanted; and may keep lingering along at this work up to the month of May. Whereas, the fodder from the corn has been safely stacked in September, or in the latter end of August; and there is your corn in the crib ready for the market at the shortest notice, you knowing to a bushel how much you have to sell.

136. You will as often *sell it in the ear* as *in grain;* or, as the Americans call it, and as we must call it, "SHELLED CORN." I am now about to speak of the manner of separating the grains from the cobb. In Plate III, *e.* represents a

cobb; and *c*, a little group of grains; *b* represents an ear before the grain be taken off. The grains when they are taken off the cobb, are, as I have just said, called SHELLED CORN; and the operation of taking them off is not called thrashing, but shelling, and it is performed by farmers in general, in the following manner. They take a piece of iron, that has a sharpish edge to it, and fix it across a pretty broad tub; they then take an ear in their two hands, and, scraping it long-ways across this piece of iron, the grains fall into the tub, and they throw the cobb aside. A stout man, a man with strong wrists, will shell from twenty to thirty bushels a day in this manner; and the American farmers, generally, do it in cold weather, in the winter, and most commonly choose the fire-side as the scene of operation. However, you do see them, when hard pushed, actually threshing it with a flail. In this case, they fling down a large heap on a barn-floor, hang up some cloths to prevent the grain from flying over the sides of the floor; and with a flail, having a *swingel* (as our people call it) about two feet long, and as big round as a smallish man's wrist, fastened to the end of a *hand-staff*, as we call it, six feet long, and made also of some tough wood, a Yankee fellow will, I dare say, knock out a hundred bushels a day of shelled corn. This, however, is regarded as a slovenly

way of doing the work, it is certainly attended with some waste, and I have never seen it done but once or twice. Extraordinarily lazy fellows spread it six inches deep over a barn's floor (the barn's floors are very large), where they trample it off the cobb by the feet of horses or oxen, as they do almost all of their wheat and other grain. But I saw, before I left America, a beautiful machine for shelling corn. The ears were put into a hopper, a wheel was turned round by one man, the cobbs came tumbling out of the side of the machine, and the grain came out at the front, or the grain came out of the bottom, and the cobbs at the front; I thought that the man *shelled* a bushel a minute, but my son JAMES, who was with me when I saw the machine at work, thinks that it took five minutes to shell the bushel of corn, and neither of us can recollect whether the quantity applied to ears or to *shelled* corn; but, supposing it to be applied to ears, and supposing the time to be five minutes in the place of one; here are twelve bushels of ears shelled in an hour, with the greatest facility imaginable; and, six bushels of *shelled corn* are the effect of the hour's labour. I have written to America for one of these machines, and if that come, which I am pretty sure it will, there is an end of all trouble about the shelling; but, suppose it be shelled by hand, in the manner first described, a man

will shell, with great ease, twenty bushels a-day, and sit and gossip with his wife, or hear his neighbour, who has nothing to do, read the news at the same time, and shell four or five times as much corn as he can thrash of wheat or barley, leaving out of account all the plague of winnowing and the rest of the fuss which appertains to the cleansing of grain.

137. In the next Chapter I am to speak of the various uses to which the grain is applicable: but, as we have now been speaking of the shelling, let me observe that the usual piece of iron made use of for this job in America is a bayonet, which, as a great many poor souls have felt to their cost, has three sharp edges. The Yankee, putting a stout piece of HICKORY or WHITE OAK into the socket, runs the point of the bayonet, or hammers it, into one side of the tub, about three inches from the top; he then fastens the other end of the piece of wood to the other side of this pretty broad tub. He then takes the ears and shells off the grains by rasping the cobb down upon the upper edge of the bayonet. We are instructed that swords shall be turned into plough-shares and spears into pruning-hooks, which I dare say will come, some time or other; but, here, we already see the bayonet turned into a flail; and, this practice is *universal*, mind you; for I never, during the

nineteen years of my life, that I passed amongst the corn people, saw any thing but a bayonet used for this purpose. In the South of France, where the people have never had the happiness to acquire liberty by the means of a revolutionary war and royal invasions, the farmers do, I am told, generally make use of the handle of the *frying-pan* for this purpose, which they fix across the tub, edge-ways, in two notches made in the sides of the tub to receive the implement. But, the YANKEES, who always call the bayonet *uncle* GEORGE's *toasting-fork* (and God knows the Cornwallises, and Burgoynes and Clintons left a pretty parcel in that country behind them), invariably make use of that royal and at once warlike and culinary and agricultural implement.

138. In the next Chapter, I shall have to speak of the various uses to which the grain is applicable, and to describe minutely the mode of application; but, as I have here treated so far, of the husks and the cobbs, and have before treated of the stalks, I shall here speak of the uses of all these. The husk, properly so called, consists of those delicate leaves by which the ear is enveloped. These are finer and finer, tougher and tougher, and more and more elastic, as they approach the ear. The number to each ear is generally nine, sometimes twelve, and sometimes as many as

fifteen or eighteen. The texture is nearly as fine as that of coarse silk; they are tough; and upon the interior ones one may write tolerably well. In all the corn countries, they are used in the making of mattresses, and in all those cases where our upholsterers use hay or straw. For these purposes they are excellent, being elastic, very durable, and, though in use for an age, never crumble into dust like hay or straw; and, therefore, do not harbour and tend to assist in generating, those creeping or skipping things, which, by what right of nature I know not, claim the privilege (like other claimants that I could name if I would) of interfering with our peace and of sucking our blood; and which, if they could speak, would certainly be as clamourous for *emancipation* as any of the rest.

139. Upon this subject a gentleman has written to me to inform me, that, a captain of a vessel made him a present, many years ago, of a mattress made of corn husks; that it served, after having served the captain on board of ship, as a bed for the informant's children for several years; that, at the end of that time, "part of it was taken out to stuff the seat and back of an arm-chair; and that, from a desire to save expense, these husks, which had already served so long, and which had been, in the case of the children, put to so very severe a test, are now,

a trusty person, who has strong fingers, and who is not too delicate to poke those fingers down into the dirt a little; for, unless you get the suckers completely out from the socket, they are sure to start again.

109. The earthing up answers two purposes; first, it keeps the plant stiff and steady, in case of very rough winds. Blowing down is out of the question; but it is desirable that the plant should not even lean. The other purpose is (and this is the great purpose), to give the plant a *fresh stock of roots*; for the corn-plant, like the hop-bine, sends out, when earthed up, new roots from the bottom of the part thus covered with the earth. Leave a corn-plant with nothing but flat hoeing, and without earthing up, and you will see all round it roots coming out, just above the ground, and going immediately down into the ground. But, indeed, why do we earth up kidney beans, peas, broad beans, cabbages and many other garden plants? Not because the earth tends to keep them upright, or because it looks pretty, but because the parts of the stalks covered by fresh earth send forth roots into that earth; and if you were to earth up a cabbage-plant, so as to touch the under sides of the bottom leaves, you would find, by the time that the cabbage had fairly leaved, roots coming out all round the stem or stalk from the top to

the bottom. This earthing up, therefore, is a work that ought not to be neglected, though I neglected it this year, wholly neglected it, in a great part of the field; and it was in no part done well, for, the distance was not sufficient for a due performance of the work; and, though my crop is large, it would have been a great deal larger if all these operations had been performed in due time and manner.

110. I must here make an observation, which I think I have somewhere made before, that, though the Scripture forbids us to muzzle the ox as he treadeth out the corn, Scripture does not forbid us (and the good of ourselves, as well as of the ox, call upon us to do it) to muzzle him when he is ploughing in the corn; and not only the ox, but the horse. Reining up will not do. There must be a muzzle to prevent the animal from cropping off, in spite of your teeth, the plants between which you are ploughing. You may gag a horse, by putting a short stick in his mouth, of the thickness of a broom-stick, and tying the ends tightly back to some parts of the harness; but this is not so good as an effectual muzzle, which leaves room for the opening of the mouth, and prevents the possibility of biting. When, indeed, the plant has produced its crop, these gentle, docile, and useful, fellow-labourers of man, are fairly entitled to their share, and particularly the

gentle, the patient, and the laborious ox, which I do not wonder was pointed out to us as an object of our especial consideration and humanity; but, in this case, his anticipation of enjoyment would be destructive of future and greater benefit, even to himself. It is here, therefore, for the reason of man to interfere, as it is in the case of children, or other thoughtless beings, who destroy things of this sort because they know not their value. I despise the canting of wretches, who affect to weep over what they call the cruelty of drovers and butchers, and who, the next minute, will devour parts of the animals with the blood almost running out of the corners of their mouths; and, which is a great deal worse, will leave, without a sigh, those who toil upon their estates, or in the country from which they draw their means, to perish with hunger and with cold and to suffer degradation and live on food, unknown to the cattle in England. Animals are *fatted* for the purpose of being *killed;* to be eaten they must be taken to the spot where the eaters reside; and in the taking them thither and the killing of them, it is quite impossible to prevent those occurrences in their treatment, of which this sham humanity so ostentatiously complains. But, the animals that *labour* are entitled to great consideration from every one to whose care they have, by circumstances, been commit-

ted; and I know of no fault in a labourer, which has so often excited my displeasure, and produced at my hands the sole punishment in my power to inflict, as that of beating, or even using foul language to horses or oxen working in the fields. The second best ploughman I ever had in my life I discharged on a Monday afternoon, giving him the remainder of the week's wages, for nothing, but having accidentally heard him abusing his horses while he was at plough; and, upon coming into the field, seeing him beating about the head a mare, which we always regarded as, and which was, a most docile and valuable creature.

111. Before I dismiss this chapter entirely, I must give my opinion relative to the choice between oxen and horses, in this business of corn; and, indeed, in farm-work generally. I am decidedly for the using of oxen, for reasons a bare list of which, each occupying one line, would fill a page of this book. In the FIRST place, the harness, if harness be used and not yokes, and I will proceed first upon that supposition, is much less expensive, and requires less strength, than that which is to stand the jerking and the starting of a horse. SECOND: food upon which a horse will not be able to work at all is quite sufficient for an ox; the latter does not cost for his food a fourth, or even a sixth, and perhaps a tenth,

taking the whole year round, part of the sum which the food of a horse costs; and, of the sort of food for an ox I shall speak by-and-bye. One of the great plagues of horses is the blacksmith, who may almost be looked upon as an inmate of the farm-yard, acting, as he generally does, in the double capacity of horse-shoe-maker and farrier, in the former of which, he, several times in every year, actually makes business for himself in the latter. In short, this may be called an everlasting visitor; and, being a prowler about from place to place, he brings all the news regularly, once or twice a week; and gathers a goodly group about him at the stable door. Then, just at the time when you want the team to go out, a horse has got a shoe loose; he must be taken to the blacksmith, at perhaps a mile distance; or the blacksmith must be brought; and he, unluckily, is gone to another farm. How often does it happen (and every farmer will say it) for a wagon or cart, which ought to be off before day-light, to be kept at home till eight o'clock, waiting for the operations of the blacksmith! How often does it happen for a harvest-wagon, to stand still for hours from the same cause! With oxen you have none of these plagues, and none of the heavy expenses that accompany them. THIRD: there is the farrier with his *balls*, and his *drinks*, and his *salve*, and

his *tow*, and all his tinkerings about day after day, week after week, and month after month. There is the *grease*, and the *pole-evil*, and the *glanders*, and the *strangles*, and the *fret*, and the *coughs*, and the *staggers*, and the *botts*, and various other nasty and troublesome diseases. The ox knows none of these: he sets them all, Bott Smith's name-sakes and the whole, completely at defiance. If he get *lamed* by any means, you have only to let him lay in a rough field or a meadow and rest until he be well; and if the lameness be incurable, still he will fat with very little trouble, and will, nineteen times out of twenty, sell for more than he cost. The farrier's bill is a manuscript of considerable length, winding up with a decent allegation in figures. You will find not a single *ball* omitted; and, generally speaking, I say generally speaking, the cost of the farrier is far beyond the good that he does; and in innumerable cases, you have at last to send the horse to the dog kennel. Fourth: a personage coming still more home to you; I mean the *carter*. A carter is the sole master of the horses with which he goes; and, in nine cases out of ten, he is, as far as concerns them and their labours, pretty nearly the master of their owner. He must have his way pretty much as to quantity and quality of food, as to hours of labour, and as to various other things, in which, if you do not

give way to him, you must make up your mind to get rid of him; and, even then, you only exchange one sort of half master for another. If you be peremptory in your commands to him, and insist upon such or such a quantity of work being done, in such or such a space of time, and also insist upon having your own way with regard to the food of the horses, he has a way of making their rough coats and bare bones convince you, that he understood these matters a great deal better than you. With oxen you have no part of this everlasting plague. They want neither currying, nor rubbing; they want no straw cut up for chaff, they want no stables to be cleaned out, once or twice a day; they want no careful racking up by candle-light; they want no man in the stable, two hours before it is time to turn out to work: turned into the field or the meadow, or turned to the cribs in their yard, they are ready at daylight to receive the collar or the yoke, and they are at work without any previous ceremony. The carter gets drunk, or quits you, which he legally may, in the middle of harvest, though he has been living upon you all the winter; he may do this legally if he be fired with the love of fame to be acquired *in his Majesty's service*. With oxen you set both the carter, and this most injurious law at defiance. Any thing that has two hands can put oxen in harness, and can hold

a plough, or drive a cart or a wagon, with creatures so gentle. You have no growling fellow to share in the mastership of the concern with yourself; and you expose none of these to act unjustly and ungratefully. FIFTH: food which the ox requires is, any tolerably good meadow or grass-field in summer, or, which is better, clover, lucerne, or even meadow grass cut up and brought in by himself, to be eaten out of a crib in the yard; because here the manure remains; and because, especially in the busy time of the year, the ox gets his meat quietly, and lies down and rests. Here is no cutting up of chaff, no going to the granary for oats or beans; or, for what is a great deal better, corn: no *bins* are wanted, and there is no sharing between the working cattle and the rats and the mice, both of whom, invariably, partake of the meal administered in the manger. In winter time, when there is no grass, coarse hay is sufficient for the ox, corn-tops, or even stalks, which latter may serve in the fall of the year, unless the oxen work hard. In times of leisure the ox is getting flesh, notwithstanding the cheapness of his food. White turnips, tops and all; mangle wurzel, and its tops; and, towards the spring of the year, when the work is required to be hard, and before the grass has arrived, or even the clover or the lucerne, *Swedish turnips*, is the proper food for

an ox. He would fatten on them if he did no work; but he will work on them constantly, without losing flesh. You know how many oxen you have; and you know that each will require about two bushels a day, just topped and tossed into a crib; and therefore you know how much of your Swedishy turnip crop you ought to reserve for this purpose. The grass, and even the lucerne, does not come into use, generally speaking, until the middle of May. You ought, therefore, according to the good English fashion of providing rather too much than too little, make a provision of Swedish turnips, so as to begin feeding upon them on the 1st of March, and ending the last week of May. Your oxen, fed upon these, will trip along as quickly as almost any horses, and will keep up their flesh during the whole of the sowing season; and, if circumstances should render it advisable, will be fat for the butcher, by the next Christmas. SIXTH: the first cost of an ox or steer, three years old, would at this time, if of the North Devon or Sussex breed, be, perhaps, if in good condition, and ready broken in to his work, from *fourteen* to *seventeen pounds*. You cannot have a horse of the same age under double the sum, if in good condition, and fit to do the work that an ox will perform. Every day of his life, until he be seven years old, the ox gets better and better;

and, every day of his life the horse gets worse and worse, comes nearer and nearer to the day when his body, skin and all, must be sold for twenty or thirty shillings; and, during the four years which I have here supposed an ox might be advantageously kept at work, the horse will have cost, on an average, an additional five pounds at the least, for the blacksmith and the farrier, to say nothing here about the great difference in the four years' costs of food. At last, if from the age of the ox, or from any other circumstance, it be desirable to fat him, he may bring you one-third more than his first cost, if not double the amount of it. In the case of selling off the stock of a farm, horses are a mere drug, if they be old or out of condition; but an ox will, either for working or fatting, always sell for his worth. He is something to be eaten, and has an intrinsic value, not at all depending upon adventitious circumstances, or upon taste or opinion. There is no question as to his soundness, no "*warranty;*" no roguish jockey here to come into play. There is one thing indeed, which the mention of the "warranty," here reminds me of; and that is, the dreadful falling off, which the general use of oxen would occasion in the practice of the Courts of Law. Our ears are constantly filled with the accounts of *horse-causes;* but, whoever heard of an *ox-cause?* The ox is the natural assistant of

man in the labours of the field. So he was in the days of MOSES, and throughout the whole of the periods of the transactions of which the Bible is a history. We read in the Bible of war-horses; of horses drawing chariots; but we never find an allusion to horses employed in the tillage of the land; for which, by their gentleness, by the nature of the food which they require, by their great docility, oxen seem to have been formed by nature. When I was in LONG ISLAND, I had a pair of large oxen and a pair of small ones; and, from that time I have been astonished at their not being more in use in England. If you want to do a very long day's work in summer time, it is necessary to rest in the middle of the day, and particularly if the weather be hot. What a clutter there is with horses in this case. They must be brought into the stable, rubbed down, fed at manger, and taken out again to the field, be the distance what it may; an ox is uncollared or unyoked, turned into the nearest field which has no crop in it; and, perhaps you may let him loose in the field where you are at plough, and he there, either on the unploughed ground, or round the hedges, gets him a luncheon, and is ready for you when you come back. The docility of oxen is beyond belief to those who have not been in the habit of using them. My man in LONG ISLAND, used, in summer time,

to go out with his yoke and his bows just at break of day; that is to say, as soon as he could see the oxen at fifty or sixty yards from him; for, there it is a great thing to get the main of the work done before ten o'clock, and after five, in order to avoid the burning heat of the day. He generally found the oxen lying down, in which respect again they were so much better than the dainty and capricious horse, which will sometimes stand upon his legs, even for a week together. As soon as the man got a sight of the oxen, for the space was large, he used to call out "*Haw, boys.*" At the second call, somewhat more loud than the former, the oxen used to rise up and look at him, and then look at one another. When he approached them near enough for his words to be distinctly heard, he used to call out, "*Come under,*" upon which the oxen began to walk off slowly towards him. The next words were, "*Come under,* I TELL ye," pronounced in a very commanding and even angry tone, upon which the oxen set off to him at full trot, bringing their heads up close to his body; and putting the yokes round their necks, each fastened at the top with a little piece of wood, away he walked, and they after him, into the field, where a single plough-chain hooked on to a ring in the yoke, sent the plough along in a minute. There are

two objections stated to the use of oxen. It is said that they *go slowly;* and so they ought; and, on the finest arable farms that I ever saw, and I believe are the finest in the world, I mean, in the vales of WILTSHIRE, the horses go as slowly as foot can fall. It is the history of the tortoise and the hare; the movements must be slow in such a case; and, if the *time* be well husbanded, slow movements are the best. The other objection is, that their feet, unless they be shod, (which they never should be, by me) disqualify them from travelling upon hard roads. I am not recommending them as fit for road wagons, or vans or stage coaches. I am recommending them for work upon a farm, which includes going to the mill, going to coppice cart, going to timber cart; as far as the outsides of the farm; all which work I have seen them perform in the most excellent manner, at FARMER BRAZIER'S, at WORTH, in SUSSEX, who always has a team of four oxen, who has a pair of young ones always coming on, and who now and then fats a pair of the oldest, or sells them for the purpose of their being fatted. A few miles upon even a hard turnpike road does the feet of an ox no harm; or else, how do those which are loaded with fat walk, sometimes a hundred and fifty miles, for the purpose of being devoured by the tax-eaters of London. These oxen are

sometimes lame; but you will see whole droves of fat DEVONSHIRE oxen, without a lean one amongst them. An ox will go in a cart or wagon, just as well as a horse, and with more docility. The exceeding troublesomeness of relying solely upon the spade, and the necessity of my being constantly present here; besides the absolute necessity of a good deal of carting; made me, sometime ago in conversation with a friend, express my deep regret at not being able to bring over a yankee with a pair of oxen, his yoke, and his bows. As it happened this friend had been in America himself, and was now using oxen in England, and kindly offered to send me two pair, ready broken to their work. I have them, and very docile and excellent oxen they are. I was afraid of being compelled to resort to the horse, the "head" carter, the well-informed blacksmith, and the scientific farrier. I trembled at the very thought, and was happily relieved from my distress by the intervention of this brother emigrant to AMERICA. For heavy or deep ploughing we take the two pair. For light ploughing, such as the inter-tillage above mentioned, one pair will be enough. These oxen cart the dung, bring in the corn, the mangle-wurzel roots and leaves, and, in short, do all the work upon the farm. I have one little horse to send into town and for

other purposes; but an ox does very well to draw a cart to Kensington, or to go any short distance, and, if not very frequently, over the pavement as far as Hyde Park Corner, or even farther. About *farms*, however, there are, thank God, no pavements yet; and, therefore, it does appear to me to be the strangest thing in the world, that the use of oxen is not preferred to that of horses. The reason is, I believe, that farmers generally think that horses do more work than oxen; and another reason certainly is, that they will bear hurrying and whipping along, which oxen will not. An additional reason is, that horses can be sent with a load upon any hard roads, and that, generally speaking, oxen cannot; but, I want to know what great distances a farmer can want to send his team to. To market is the utmost. The market is not, on an average, ten miles distant from the farm; and that distance is not necessary to be gone over a great many times in the year, except the farm be very large, and then there must be several teams of oxen, amongst which this road work would of course be divided. In these objections, I therefore see nothing of any weight; and there remains only to speak of the *breaking-in*. In the first place, oxen are certainly more troublesome than cart horses to break into their work; but, with an inflexible resolution on the part of the master to

see patience exercised, and all violence and rough and loud language avoided, and with attention to it himself, the breaking-in of a young ox is a matter of very little difficulty. In the first place, he should be kept for some time in company with the working oxen when they are not at work; he should feed them in the same pasture, or out of the same cribs in the yard. Then he should be tied up in a stall, for a month or so, every night by the side of one of the working oxen, and always the same ox, and on the same side of him. Then the collar (if collars be used) should be put on him, and he might wear it constantly. By-and-bye the rest of the harness. Then, he should be led out with the harness on, walking still on the same side of the same working ox. If yokes be used, he should be led yoked with the other ox without any thing to draw. The plough is the great doctor for horses as well as for oxen; for here there is no room, and no danger of injury to any thing. When first put to plough, the ground should be rather light, and the young ox should hardly feel that he has any thing behind him. If, however, he be stubborn, there should be no blows, and no loud scolding. Stop, pat him, and pat the other ox, and he will presently move on again and pull a little. If he lie down, which he sometimes will, let him lie till he be tired, and when he chooses to get up

treat him very gently, as if he had heen doing every thing that was right. By these means a young ox is broken to his labour in the course of a few days; and when that is once done, it is done for all the working part of his life. Rich pasture will not make him restive, as high feeding does a horse. With gentle treatment he is always of the same temper, is always of the same aptitude to labour: he is stronger with good feed than with bad; but no feed makes him unwilling to perform what you want him to perform. In conclusion, there is a question which is best, collars or yokes? in some respects one is, and in some respects the other; especially if you want an ox to go in shafts, to which the yoke cannot be easily applied. The collar, however, is not the natural thing for the ox, whose seats of strength are his neck and his horns, and not his shoulders. In AMERICA yokes are universal, and yokes prevail in SUSSEX. They are the least expensive, but if yokes be used with carts or wagons, there must be poles and not shafts; for the yoke is for two oxen and not for one. Mr. TULL used a bull with a single yoke, a description of which is given in my "*Year's Residence in America*," one of which I had there, and used it as long as I remained there; and such a yoke might be useful to some persons who persist in the nar-

row tillage. In the case of corn, it would be of no use at all.

112. There is one thing yet to be observed on, with regard to the ploughing; and this is a matter that *gentlemen* must attend to with great scrupulousness, and with great resolution. Farmers *will have* the thing done without any ceremony; but, gentlemen must resolve to have it done. I have spoken of the ploughings between the corn as being to be performed by two oxen or horses. In very light ground it may be done with one, with a pair of reins, with a swing plough well made and light; but generally it will be done by two, for, the deeper the ploughing is the better.

113. Unless the plough be so drawn, or so geared as they call it: that is to say, unless the things by which it is drawn be what they ought to be, the corn-plants will, at the second ploughing, be knocked down, or at least very much broken or bruised by the things which are made use of for attaching the horses or oxen to the plough. In the first place, the *head-piece* of the plough, which is a piece of iron, with knotches in it, to which are fastened the hooks the cattle draw by; this head-piece is about nine inches wide, and has several divisions in it for the purpose of shifting the hook. After this (towards

the cattle) comes a piece of wood with one hook at each end of it, and with one in the middle: the middle hook is to fasten it to the head-piece, and the two hooks at the ends are to receive a hook from the middle of two other pieces of wood, which two pieces of wood are made in the same manner as the first piece, and have a hook at each end to receive the hook that is at the end of each of the traces of the cattle. These two last pieces of wood are called by all manner of names; by a name which differs in almost every county in the kingdom. In Hampshire they are called *whipple-trees*, that is to say in the north, for this name does not hold good in the south; in Surrey they are called whipponses; in LONG ISLAND they are called *whiffle-trees*; in Norfolk and Suffolk, by names that I cannot recollect.

114. These mechanical descriptions are very difficult work, unless you resort to the graving tool, which I do not think necessary in a case like this, and yet I must show how the bruising and beating the corn-plants about by this tackle may be avoided. Let us resume then; first comes the head-piece of the plough, to that is hooked the first mentioned piece of wood, which is called the BOLT; to this are hooked the two pieces of wood, which are called the WHIPPONSES; these are hooked to the two ends of the bolt; and then to the two ends of each of these

are hooked the TWO TRACES, which are fastened to the collar of each of the cattle. Now, observe, all this tackle can be used without the smallest inconvenience at the *first ploughing* of the corn; because one of the oxen or horses walks in the furrow, and the end of his *whippons* will ride so high as not to touch the corn plants at all. But, at the next ploughing, the corn will be probably two feet high or more, and the ends of the *whippons* would bruise or break them. You must, therefore, now, not plough with the cattle *abreast*, but singly; that is to say, they must follow one another at their work; and, as the ground has been so recently twice ploughed, it will move without any great strength, and the work *may* be done by one ox, or one horse; but it is done *best* by two, for, the deeper the ploughing is, the better it is.

115. Supposing the ox (for I will use this word alone now, it being understood, that the same directions apply to the horse) to have his traces hooked on to the BOLT, still one end of the bolt would knock the corn about. Yet, the traces must be kept pretty widely apart; or else, they gall the sides and thighs of the ox. A short BOLT, therefore; one about fifteen inches long instead of three feet, is the thing; to this BOLT the two traces may be fastened; but, as they would still gall the sides of the ox, and both

sides and thighs of the horse, there must be a SPREADER at a proper distance from the hinder part of the animal, long enough to keep the traces sufficiently clear of his body; yet, as it is desirable to have this spreader as short as possible, the traces, in the parts opposite the sides and thighs may be sewed round, with some coarse sacking, or something of that sort, to prevent the galling.

116. With these precautions, the work will be done without the smallest risk of bruising the corn-plants. It is what I have done, constantly, in ploughing between Swedish turnips and mangle-wurzel. It is what any body may do without any difficulty. Farmers will make their people do it at once without any ceremony; they will tell them what to do, and ask nothing about the state of their opinions about the matter; and if gentlemen have a mind to have the thing done, they must do the same. If there be two oxen, the one following the other, there must be a driver, or else the leading ox may be apt to be stretching his neck to get at the corn; and it is the same with horses, of course.

CHAPTER VII.

On the topping of the Corn, and on the Mode of stacking the Tops.

117. THE plate on the opposite page (Plate II) represents a Corn Plant which is topped. By referring back to Plate I, you will perceive that the top is taken off, with the tassel upon it, and with some of the leaves or blades attached to it. In Plate II, *a* represents the point at which the TOP is cut off; *b, b, b,* the three EARS covered with their HUSKS; *d, d, d,* are little bunches of the dead SILK that remain after the rest of the silk has been dried away; *c, c,* the STALK. There are, generally, some leaves shorter or longer that come out of the ears; that is to say, that grow out of the point of the husks: these are not always taken off quite clean; but, if the thing were done, in a manner perfectly well, the plant, when *topped* and *bladed,* would be as it stands in Plate II.

118. First, we must speak of the season of topping. This season is not to be fixed on by the months, or by the days of the month, any more than the time for cutting wheat or for

Plate. II.

amongst those others, the *poor*, do it for them; like the cuckoo, which lays its egg in the hedge-sparrow's nest, and makes the poor little thing feed the intruder, until, as soon as of beak and swallow sufficient, it devours the nurse herself.

201. Such are my notions relative to the duties of a man towards his family. He is to provide for them in an adequate, just, and suitable manner; but he is not to neglect his duties, not at all less sacred, towards his neighbours and his country, especially when it is considered, that his family *shares*, too, in the benefit resulting from the discharge of these duties. He is to provide for his family *if he be able*; but, amongst the *causes of inability*, he is to reckon the necessity of preserving his character; the necessity of expending time or money, or both, in order to serve his country, or to advance his own honest and fair fame, or to avenge himself on his cruel or unjust enemies; for no "flesh and blood" have a claim upon him sufficiently strong to make it his duty to abandon any one of these; nor have they a claim upon him so strong as to justify him in withholding relief from the necessitous, or in at all pinching the labourer in his hire; or, in short, to justify him in committing any act of covetousness, or even of meanness.

202. By these principles I have always been actuated myself, and I have constantly endea-

voured to inculcate them amongst my readers in general, and more especially amongst my children, to those amongst whom, whose sex warrants the hope, I trust their country may look with confidence for the performance of duties, such as those, the performance of which have occupied so large a part of the life of their father. This day (21st November) I have not only received a parcel of PAPER, made of *the husks of my Corn*; but, have sent it to have printed on it *the title page of this very book!* You, my friends (readers of the Register), when you hear my and your malignant, or stupid, calumniators affecting to jeer at my undertakings, may now hold the PAPER up to their eyes, or cram an ear of the CORN into their distended jaws, taking care, however, of your own hands at the same time. To wish that Pitt, Dundas, Perceval, Ellenborough, Gibbs, Castlereagh, and Canning, or either of them, were *alive* is far from my heart, even for the purpose of witnessing this triumph of mine; nor would I, though for the same purpose, wish the *stern-path-of-duty* man to be, in the least, disturbed in his retreat; but, if there be any of the jolterheads of *Hampshire*, whether in grey coats or black, who have not yet been, by the "hard times" or by their own baffled pride and humbled insolence, driven to cut their own throats, as Castlereagh did his at North Cray, in Kent; and who used, while they

saw me stripped by the government, to affect to believe, and to endeavour to make others believe, that I had been ruined by my *foolish farming*, which they used to call my "FARMING CROCHETS:" if there be any of these brutes of unprovoked malignity with throats yet uncut, I do wish, that a full ear of my Corn were crammed, whole, down each of those uncut throats: or, which would be about the same thing to them, I wish that the brutes could be *prevented from planting the corn!* That would be the appropriate punishment!

203. In conclusion, my friends, let me say once more, that the greater share of the merit of this enterprise belongs, as I before said, to my ELDEST SON: and I cannot take my leave of the interesting subject in any way more congenial with my own feelings, and, I trust, pleasing to you, than by inserting here the letter from him, to the King's gardener, accompanying the Master-plant, mentioned in a former part of this book.

Kensington, 8th November, 1828.

SIR,

Along with this note, I have the honour to send you a corn plant, which I have taken from my father's field at Barn Elm. It has six full ears of corn; and, you will see, that (it was by accident) one was broken off. If it had still had *seven*,

the number would have been that of the "one stalk" mentioned in Pharaoh's dream of the seven years of plenty. As to the gardener of my Sovereign, I send you this plant, hoping that, during the reign of His Majesty, and the reigns of all his royal successors, England may be blessed with that plenty, which the general cultivation of this plant is calculated constantly to ensure.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble and

Most obedient Servant,

WM. COBBETT, Jun.

To William Acton, Esq.
Royal Botanical Garden, Kew.

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